DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

FCRA bill: Govt, Oppn gear up for showdown

Cong asks its MPs to rush to Delhi

Page 10

Tennis legend Leander Paes joins BJP

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NDA in TN to lose, polls a fight between Tamil Nadu and Delhi-NDA
Political Theatre
This election is a fight between two ideologies - that of the Left Front led by CPM and that of the UDF

DECCAN HERALD
Wednesday
April 1, 2026

Poll vault

Wedding polls

April 23, when Tamil Nadu votes to elect its 17th Assembly, is the first muhurtham day in the auspicious Tamil month of Chithirai. Newly married couples in their wedding attire are likely to throng polling stations across the state to exercise their franchise. Since April 23 is the first auspicious day for ceremonies such as weddings after more than a month, the Tamil month of Panguni is considered inauspicious, the day is expected to witness many couples tying the knot.

E T B SIVAPRIYAN, CHENNAI

Name game

With CPM's KK Shailaja and Congress' Kerala unit chief Sunny Joseph in the fray, Peravoor is witnessing a high-profile electoral battle. But the contest is not just between Shailaja and Sunny Joseph. Six of the 11 candidates in the constituency are either named Shailaja or Sunny, with two namesakes each for the main contenders. They are not the only prominent candidates facing namesakes in the election. CM Pinarayi Vijayan faces VM Vijayan in Dharmadom, while Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala in Haripad has an opponent named Ramesh C. LoP VD Satheesan, too, faces a namesake in KB Satheesan.

SHEMIN JOY, NEW DELHI

Meet the leader

Padmaja Venugopal
BJP
Thrissur

As 65-year-old Padmaja Venugopal seeks a mandate as the BJP candidate from Thrissur in Kerala, the key question is whether the legacy of former chief minister and Congress stalwart K Karunakaran will help the BJP salvage its position in its lone and maiden Lok Sabha seat in the state. Padmaja's entry into the saffron camp just ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls was a major embarrassment for the Congress. In a last-minute move, the party fielded her elder brother K Muraleedharan from Thrissur to ensure the BJP did not gain from Karunakaran's legacy. However, actor-turned-politician Suresh Gopi won, while Muraleedharan could only finish in third place. The disruption of the Thrissur Pooram festival, allegedly part of a conspiracy, along with support from the Christian community, was seen as having helped Gopi. A victory for Padmaja in Thrissur this time could help the BJP reaffirm its mass support in the region.
It is Padmaja's third consecutive contest in the Thrissur seat. In 2016, she lost to CPI's VS Sunilkumar by nearly 7,000 votes, and in 2021, she was defeated by CPI's P Balachandran by just 946 votes. Suresh Gopi finished only in third place in the 2021 contest.
Being a region with a considerable Christian vote base, the fresh row over the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act amendment could make the contest tougher for Padmaja. She is taking on former Thrissur mayor Rajan Pallan of the Congress and poet Alankode Leelakrishnan, the CPI candidate.

Trivia

VN Janaki aka Janaki Ramachandran was the first woman CM of Tamil Nadu, sworn in after the death of her husband, the legendary MG Ramachandran.

Though Janaki proved her strength on the floor of the Assembly after Speaker PH Pandian disqualified a few MLAs, the government led by Rajiv Gandhi dismissed her administration using Article 356 of the Constitution. As a result, Janaki's government lasted only 24 days.

The AIADMK then split into two factions, one led by Janaki and the other by J Jayalalithaa. In the 1989 Assembly elections, the Jayalalithaa faction won 27 seats, while Janaki's group managed only two. After the crushing defeat, Janaki retired from politics, paving the way for the AIADMK's unification under Jayalalithaa.

3 from family in 3 parties: Lottery baron's poll strategy

Santiago Martin looks to secure his company's interests

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

That lottery baron Santiago Martin remains the single largest purchaser of electoral bonds — worth Rs 1,368 crore, donated to several political parties across India — is well known by now. What is less familiar, however, is how Martin has strategically positioned his family members across different parties to safeguard the commercial interests of his company, Future Gaming.

Three of Martin's immediate family members are now seeking entry into the Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Assemblies, contesting elections as candidates of three different parties.

Martin's wife Leema Rose, who joined the AIADMK recently, is contesting from Lalgudi in Tiruchirapalli district. Their son-in-law Aadhav Arjuna is Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam's (TVK) candidate from Villivakkam in Chennai.

The couple's son, Jose Charles Martin, is contesting from Kamaraj Nagar in Puducherry as the candidate of his own party, the Latchiya Jananayaga Katchi (LJK).

While Rose, Charles, and Arjuna have previously been associated with the Indiya Jananayaga Katchi (IJK) run by Tamil billionaire Pariventhar, the BJP and the Dalit party VCK, this time, they are making their electoral debuts.

With family members spread across rival parties, Martin aims to secure influence in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry regardless of who comes to power. His Future Group has an estimated annual turnover of Rs 15,000 crore.

Tiger Associates, linked to Martin, donated Rs 60 crore to the AIADMK and Rs 50 crore to the DMK in the 2024-2025 fiscal. Martin is known to be close to the DMK's first family; he contributed poll bonds worth over Rs 500 crore to the party between 2017 and 2024.

Ballot GAMBLE

Santiago Martin with his wife Leema Rose and son Jose Charles Martin.

Santiago Martin is India's largest purchaser of electoral bonds

Three family members contesting in TN & Puducherry

Wife Leema Rose is AIADMK candidate from Lalgudi, Tiruchirapalli

Son Jose Charles Martin contesting from Kamaraj Nagar, Puducherry, as candidate of his own party

Son-in-law Aadhav Arjuna is TVK candidate from Villivakkam, Chennai

Ramu Manivannan, former head of the Department of Politics and Public Administration at the University of Madras, told *DH* that the development shows how the family has entrenched itself in the political system to protect its wealth.

"Three different individuals in three different parties that have no ideology only shows that none of them has any ideological conviction. Their only aim is to protect their wealth, and the best way to do that is to join political parties," Manivannan added.

Rose has been allotted the Lalgudi constituency in Tiruchirapalli district, which has a sizeable population of Christians and Udayars — the community to which Martin belongs. While the AIADMK's ground-level infrastructure and her family's financial resources will be an advantage, Rose faces the challenge of breaking into a traditional DMK stronghold.

Charles, meanwhile, is new to Puducherry. The young billionaire, who has declared assets worth Rs 600 crore, is banking on his vast financial resources, the strength of the BJP's ally AINRC, and his father's old friends to secure victory.

Among the three, Arjuna is the most ambitious. He runs a political strategy firm, Voice of Commons, and was associated with the DMK for several years before switching to the VCK. He later joined the fledgling TVK and has since emerged as one of Vijay's key advisors.

Martin, an OBC Christian, cultivated influential connections across almost every major political party in the states where his firms operate. In Tamil Nadu, he was closely associated with the DMK, while in Kerala, he maintained a strong rapport with the LDF.

Martin also produced a film for which the late DMK patriarch M Karunanidhi wrote the script. His donation of Rs 2 crore to Deshabimani, the CPM mouthpiece in Kerala, met with opposition within the party, forcing the then Left leadership to return the amount to the lottery baron.

Plaint against Vijay; police yet to register a case

CHENNAI, DHNS: A government officer in charge of the Kolathur Assembly constituency has lodged a complaint against TVK chief C Joseph Vijay and his party supporters for organising an election campaign that caused inconvenience to people.

Vijay had to cancel his meeting in Villivakkam on Monday after addressing people in two locations, Perambur and Kolathur, due to "lack of security."

V Kumar, an officer in charge of the Static Surveillance Team of the Kolathur Assembly constituency, filed the complaint at Peravallur police station on Tuesday, alleging that about 30 loudspeakers were installed on the roadside. Though permission was granted to the TVK to conduct the election meeting only between 5 pm and 6 pm at Kolathur, Vijay arrived at 3.45 pm, the complaint said. However, police said no case has been filed so far.

The development comes a day after the party appealed to Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Archana Patnaik to make proper security arrangements to avoid a Karur-like stampede.

BJP's big push in Christian belt

Party fields heavyweights in community strongholds in central Kerala

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
KOTTAYAM (KERALA), DHNS

James, a planter in Kottayam district's Kanjirapally constituency, and his son Akhil are quite excited as Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs George Kurian, the BJP candidate from the seat, was visiting their home to seek votes.

KERALA
Assembly Poll

"It is the first time that a Union minister visited our home. It is time for us to back those who can bring change," says Akhil, while James showed no hesitation in seeing the BJP as an alternative.

At Thiruvalla in the Pathanamthitta district, another Christian stronghold in Central Kerala, Manoj was eagerly showing his friends pictures of BJP candidate Anoop Antony Joseph visiting his small home.

By fielding Christian community heavyweights, the BJP is indeed making people in the Christian belts think of it as an alternative to the Congress-led UDF and the CPM-led LDF. Development is its mantra to woo voters.

However, those ripples seem inadequate when it comes to changing its anti-Christian image, built up by various measures, the latest being the proposed Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act amendment that could affect many NGOs run by churches.

"Already, there are very tight regulations to prevent any sort of misappropriation. Bringing in new provisions that provide for the takeover of all assets of NGOs in case of any delay in renewing the licence are really irrational," said Kerala Catholic Bishops' Council deputy secretary general Father Thomas Tharayil.

George Kurian said a misinformation campaign was being carried out against the BJP. "We have strongly intervened in all cases of attack on nuns and priests," he told *DH*.

Kerala Congress (M) leader and Rajya Sabha member Jose K Mani — the LDF candidate from Pala — is trying to cash in on the FCRA amendment move. "Will there be regulations in conducting Mass as well?" he asked.

The Election Commission's decision to hold training for election officials on Good Friday has also not gone down well with the churches.

Christians constitute 18% of Kerala's population.

NDA VOWS

KERALA

1. **Bhakshya Arogya Suraksha Card:** Women from poor households to get the card with a monthly recharge of Rs 2,500, usable at pharmacies and grocery stores
2. **Welfare pension:** Rs 3,000 monthly pension for women heads of poor households, widows and senior citizens over 70 years
3. **Fuel Supply:** 2 free LPG cylinders per year, one each during Onam and Christmas, for poor families
4. **Connectivity:** High-speed railway network connecting Thiruvananthapuram with Kannur
5. **Free water:** 20,000 litres of free water for every household
6. **Transit:** Introduction of new metro services in Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode

ASSAM

1. **Infra push:** Rs 5 lakh crore investment for the timely completion of roadways, airways, waterways and railway projects
2. **Orunodoi scheme:** Rs 3,000 for women, up from the Rs 1,250
3. **One District, One University:** Initiative to ensure a comprehensive coverage of colleges in each district
4. **Mukhya Mantri Krishi Sa Sajuli Yojana:** Annual support of Rs 11,000 for small, marginal farmers
5. **Badh Mukt Assam Mission:** Rs 18,000 cr to mitigate the recurring floods
6. **Tea workers:** Rs 75,000 to tea garden families, who got land patta, for repairing their houses; wage increase to Rs 500 in a phased manner

JMM banks on ancestral roots to woo Adivasi voters

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Banking on the ancestral roots that Adivasi workers in Assam's tea gardens share with Jharkhand's Chota Nagpur, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) has fielded candidates in 21 Assembly seats for the April 9 polls, eyeing electoral success beyond its traditional territory.

ASSAM
Assembly Poll

Several JMM leaders, including Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, are campaigning in tea gardens in East and North Assam, where Adivasi voters could play a decisive role.

The JMM shares power with the Congress in Jharkhand, but Soren has been attacking both the ruling BJP and the Opposition Congress in Assam, alleging that tea-garden workers have been subjected to "neglect and exploitation".

Soren also highlighted the BJP's failure to fulfil its pre-poll promise of Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to Assam's tea-garden communities. "You have been used politically and denied rightful recognition, fair wages, and a better future for your children," said Soren while addressing a gathering at the Rajgarh tea estate in East Assam's Dibrugarh district.

Although JMM leaders claim that registering electoral success outside Jharkhand is their aim, observers believe that it is a tactical move by the Opposition to divide votes in the tea gardens and hobble the BJP in several seats where the Congress is unlikely to win on its own.

Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi also met Soren recently, making apparent an understanding between the two parties.

A JMM leader, however, said Soren decided to field candidates after Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma campaigned extensively against his party before the 2024 Jharkhand Assembly elections.

Over 35 lakh Adivasis live in over 850 big tea estates, and play a decisive role in at least 40 out of Assam's 126 Assembly constituencies, and enjoy influence in at least 10 others.

RALLYING VOTES

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma (centre) during a public rally in support of BJP candidate for Raha constituency Sashi Kanta Das (right) in Nagaon district, on Tuesday. PTI

CLEAR SIGNAL

BJP almost endorses Adhikari as CM face

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

With Home Minister Amit Shah likely to accompany him when he files his nomination as a candidate for Bhabanipur in Kolkata on Thursday, the BJP is set to send out a clear signal that its West Bengal heavyweight, Suvendu Adhikari, will be its chief ministerial face in the state.

WEST BENGAL
Assembly Poll

Adhikari, the Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, had already filed his nomination from Nandigram in Purba Medinipur district on Monday.

He is expected to do the same for Bhabanipur, his second constituency, on Thursday. With Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee as his principal rival in Bhabanipur, the BJP has planned a high-octane roadshow to mark the occasion.

"I received a phone call that Amit Shah ji will come to bless me when I submit my nomination papers for Bhabanipur on April 2," Adhikari told journalists on Tuesday.

Adhikari, who quit the TMC and joined the BJP in December 2021, has emerged over the past few years as the frontrunner to be the BJP's CM face. To avoid discontent among the party's old guard in the state, the BJP high command has so far refrained from formally declaring him as its choice for the top post.

By fielding him from both Nandigram — where he defeated Mamata, his former political mentor, in 2021 — and Bhabanipur, where he would once again take on the TMC supremo, the BJP leadership has dropped enough hints about whom it prefers to helm the state government. They also made it a point to ensure that state leaders set aside differences and presented a united front when Adhikari filed his nomination for Nandigram.

BJP candidate Suvendu Adhikari (left) and West Bengal party chief Samik Bhattacharya in Kolkata on Tuesday. PTI

BATTLE WITH MAMATA

- Shah to join Adhikari's Bhabanipur roadshow
- Adhikari is contesting from Nandigram; to file papers for Bhabanipur
- To take on CM Mamata in Bhabanipur
- Party projects unity at Nandigram nomination rally

On Sunday, BJP's West Bengal chief Samik Bhattacharya ceremonially handed over the party symbol to him at the state headquarters in Kolkata.

Another heavyweight leader, Dilip Ghosh, joined Adhikari in leading a rally before he filed his nomination for Nandigram on Monday. Ghosh, who led the BJP as its West Bengal unit chief during the 2021 Assembly polls, helped establish the saffron party as the principal challenger to the TMC.

The BJP's tally rose from just three seats in the 294-member Assembly in 2016 to 77 in 2021. But as Adhikari's stature grew within the party, Ghosh was gradually sidelined and often gave vent to his ire against leaders who had crossed over from the TMC. He had also defied the party's call to boycott the inauguration of Lord Jagannath's temple in Digha by Mamata.

Over the past few months, however, Ghosh staged a comeback, with the party agreeing to field him from Kharagpur Sadar Assembly constituency. But Ghosh's wife, Rinku Majumdar, whose plea for a ticket from Rajarhat New Town was turned down by the BJP, accused Adhikari of bending the party's 'one-family-one-candidate' rule to secure a nomination for his brother in Egra.

'Bengal can do better': Paes joins BJP

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Former tennis champion Leander Paes on Tuesday joined the BJP in the presence of Union Minister Kiren Rijiju, marking his formal entry into active politics ahead of a key electoral battle in West Bengal.

Describing the move as a "big opportunity to serve the youth", Paes expressed gratitude to the party's top leadership. "I want to thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for giving me an opportunity to serve the nation. This party membership slip is not just a slip but a responsibility."

Referring to his personal connections, Paes said, "My mother has Bengali heritage... Bengal can do better," indicating a possible focus on the poll-bound state.

Welcoming the tennis icon into the party, Rijiju said, "Paes is the first Asian to have won a medal in lawn tennis at the Olympics; when a player of his stature decides to join politics, there's always a reason behind it... It is a matter of great pride that such an iconic personality has decided to join the BJP."

Leander Paes with Kiren Rijiju in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

While Paes has largely stayed away from electoral politics during his sporting career, he joined the Trinamool Congress in 2021, ahead of the Goa Assembly polls. His shift to the BJP ahead of the Bengal elections suggests a willingness to take on a more active public role.

Paes, one of India's most decorated tennis players with over 18 Grand Slam titles in doubles and mixed doubles as well as an Olympic bronze (Atlanta 1996), has represented the country for over three decades.

Bengaluru Wednesday, April 1, 2026 Pages 20 Vol 79 No 90 ₹7

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DH

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The Power of Good

IndiGo appoints IATA chief William Walsh as new CEO

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State

No clarity on scheme, but state has earmarked Rs 2,475 cr for MGNREGA P.4

World

Israel approves death penalty law for Palestinian convicts P.13

World

Hindus in Pak protest against abduction P.13

Nation

Antecedents key in police recruitment: SC P.11

Iran threatens to target 18 US tech companies

US attacks nuclear site, Tehran hits oil tanker as war escalates

DUBAI, AP

US strikes hit a city on Tuesday that is home to one of Iran's main nuclear sites, sending a massive fireball into the sky, and Tehran attacked a fully loaded Kuwaiti oil tanker in the Persian Gulf.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said that they would target US technology firms like Apple, Google and Meta if more Iranian leaders were killed in "targeted assassinations".

"These companies, starting from 8:00 pm (1630 GMT) Tehran time on Wednesday, April 1, should expect the destruction of their relevant units in exchange for every assassination in Iran," the Guards said in a statement listing the names of 18 companies it alleged were complicit in the "targeted assassination" of officials.

Tuesday's attacks were a testament to the intensity of the war more than a month after the US and Israel launched strikes. The conflict has left more than 3,000 dead and caused major disruptions to the world's supply of oil and natural gas. On Tuesday, the average price of gasoline in the US shot past $4 a gallon - just another sign of the war's effects far beyond the Middle East.

US President Donald Trump said countries upset by high fuel prices should "go get your own oil" as Iran maintains its chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz. He expressed his frustration on social media toward allies who have been unwilling to help the US reopen the critical passageway. "Go get your own oil," Trump wrote. He also said they should buy from the US because "we have plenty."

▸ Iran, Page 7

WEST ASIA CONFLICT

- A series of **explosions rocked central Tehran** on Tuesday as US-Israeli strikes continued
- Multiple explosions rattle the **Saudi capital Riyadh**
- Iran rejects reports that the Islamic Republic had fired **missiles at Turkey**
- A strike in **western Iraq killed two fighters** from the former paramilitary Hashed coalition
- **Hezbollah** said its fighters carried out a series of attacks targeting Israeli forces and positions along the border on Tuesday

> We possess the necessary will to end this conflict, provided that essential conditions are met, especially the guarantees required to prevent repetition of the aggression.
>
> **Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian**

A ball of fire rises from the site of an Israeli strike in Beirut on Tuesday. AFP

War halts India's coffee exports

India's coffee exports to West Asia have come to a grinding halt, following disruptions in the global logistics network caused by the war in Iran. P14

China, Pak propose peace

China and Pakistan on Tuesday put forward a five-point proposal to end the West Asia conflict, calling for the restoration of peace and stability in the Gulf region and safe passage of ships. P13

LPG prices soar, pumps shut, wait for your auto may get longer

ASHWIN B M & AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Starting today, there may be a visible decline in the number of autorickshaws plying on Bengaluru roads. Several auto liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) stations across Bengaluru, including major outlets like in Seshadripuram and units in Basaveshwara Nagar, have placed "No Stock" boards, forcing drivers to travel over 10 km in search of fuel.

The LPG crisis continues in the city as many gas stations are not receiving adequate stock. The crisis has triggered a spike in operational costs.

Several auto LPG stations remained closed in Bengaluru. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Auto drivers reported that a month ago, LPG was priced at Rs 59 a litre, but on Tuesday, rates at private bunks have skyrocketed to anywhere between Rs 85 and Rs 100, with some private operators allegedly charging as high as Rs 115.

▸ LPG Turn, Page 7

Graft case: Court fines official Rs 4.5 cr

Govt witnesses pulled up for misleading court

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

A special court for Lokayukta cases has sought explanations from the Investigating Officer and two government servants named as prosecution witnesses (PW), for dereliction of duty and misleading the court in a disproportionate assets case.

The court passed this order while convicting V Muniyappa, former managing director of the Karnataka Council for Technical Upgradation at Basava Bhavana in Bengaluru for accumulating assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.

The court sentenced Muniyappa to undergo three years rigorous imprisonment and to pay a fine of Rs 4.5 crore, special judge K M Radhakrishna said in the order. The court held that during the check period between December 1982 and July 2014, Muniyappa had accumulated 77.8% assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.

In the order, special court judge K M Radhakrishna noted that courts get the assistance of experts and officials from several departments; PWD, Statistics, Transport, Agriculture and Horticulture, and these officials must show commitment, honesty and greater responsibility while assisting the courts.

> Unless this approach is stopped, perhaps the very purpose of an investigation and the object behind the Prevention of Corruption Act would certainly be defeated.
>
> **Special Court**

The court said the officials should not be under the misconception that no accountability be fastened against them for their irresponsibility, dereliction of duty for providing false information to favour the accused.

In the case at hand, the court noted that T V Manjunath, police inspector, one of the investigating officers in the case, Nagaraja S (PW5), the then assistant director of Agriculture, and Narayana Swamy (PW6), the then assistant director of Horticulture have shown negligence, dishonesty, dereliction of duties, and have misled the court.

The court observed that PW5 and 6 had not personally visited the spots to ascertain the facts relating to the agriculture and horticultural expenditure of the accused and submitted contrasting reports.

▸ Court, Page 7

Thunderstorms in most of India in April: IMD

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Most parts of India are likely to witness widespread thunderstorms and cloudiness in April because of which night temperatures will stay above normal for most of the month, India Meteorological Department said.

Details on Page 10

Oracle begins layoffs; sacks 12,000 in India

BENGALURU, DHNS: Oracle has begun global layoffs, including employees from India. According to reports, Oracle has sacked 12,000 of the 28,000 people it employs in India. It has sacked 30,000 people globally.

Details on Page 14

Nine killed in stampede at temple in Bihar

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

At least nine devotees, including eight women, were killed in a stampede at the Sheetla Mata temple in Bihar's Nalanda district on Tuesday, officials said. Eight others were injured in the incident.

Shubham Kumar, Deputy Development Commissioner (DDC) of Nalanda, told media-persons that the incident may have occurred due to heavy rush in the temple.

The Station House Officer (SHO) of the Deep Nagar police station was suspended with immediate effect for the dereliction of duty, said officials.

"An inquiry has been ordered to find out the exact cause of the incident. Officials concerned are scrutinising footage of CCTV cameras installed at the temple. Forensic experts have also been engaged to assist investigators," said a statement issued by the district police.

President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar condoled the loss of lives.

▸ Stampede, Page 7

Recent incidents

- **Sept 27, 2025:** During a TVK rally in Tamil Nadu's Karur, at least 41 people were crushed to death
- **June 29, 2025:** A sudden surge of devotees during the chariot festival in Puri led to 3 deaths
- **June 4, 2025:** 11 people died and over 50 were injured in a crowd crush outside the Chinnaswamy Stadium during the RCB IPL victory celebration
- **January 29, 2025:** At least 30 people were killed and over 90 injured in a stampede at the Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj

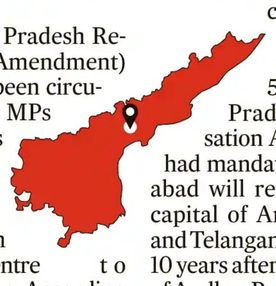
Family members of victims mourn outside a hospital in Nalanda district on Tuesday. PTI

Amaravati to get official tag as Andhra capital

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Amaravati will be officially declared the capital of Andhra Pradesh with the Union government all set to introduce a Bill in Lok Sabha as early as Wednesday.

The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026 has been circulated among MPs and it comes soon after the state Assembly passed a resolution on March 28 urging the Centre to make the change. According to the Bill, Amaravati will be considered as capital retrospectively from June 2, 2024.

The TDP had been vocal about making Amaravati Andhra Pradesh's capital while its predecessor YSR Congress had mooted the idea of three capitals – Visakhapatnam as executive capital, Kurnool as judicial capital and Amaravati as legislative capital – which did not cut ice with the Centre. The Bill amends Section 5 of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act 2014, which had mandated that Hyderabad will remain the joint capital of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana for a period of 10 years after the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh.



"...in sub-section (2), for the words 'there shall be a new capital', the words 'and Amaravati shall be the new capital shall be substituted'," the Bill said.

▸ Amaravati, Page 7

US-returned techie ends life, wife jumps to death from 17th floor

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 31-year-old techie jumped to her death from the 17th floor of her apartment complex on Monday after finding her husband hanging in their flat in eastern Bengaluru's Kothanur.

Bhanu Chander Reddy (33), a software professional from Telangana, reportedly hanged himself in his eighth-floor flat at a gated community in Navarathna Agrahara when no one was at home.

Around 9.30 am on Monday, his wife, Shaziya Siraj returned from Hyderabad, her hometown. She knocked on the door but did not get a response. Upon her request, security guards broke the door open only to find Reddy hanging. Numb with disbelief, Shaziya ran up to the 17th floor and jumped to her death, the police stated.

The Kothanur police later arrived at the scene and shifted the bodies for post-mortem. They have registered a case of unnatural death and launched an investigation.

On Tuesday, both families received the bodies after the post-mortem and did not suspect any foul play, according to the police.

A senior police officer said that Reddy had returned from the US but hadn't found a job in Bengaluru.

He was reportedly suffering from depression.

The police have found a purported suicide note, in which Reddy explained his health condition and stated that no one else should be held responsible for his death.

▸ Techie, Page 7

CULTURE TRIP

Digital museum to light up B'luru's unknown past

Water turbine at the Shivanasamudra Hydroelectric Power Station. Power was first generated here in 1902.
PHOTO: NCBS TEAM

KUSHAGRA BHARDWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

Long before Bengaluru earned its reputation as India's Silicon Valley, it was known by another name — the City of Lights.

It was, in fact, the first city in Asia to receive electric street lighting, powered by the Shivanasamudra hydroelectric station as early as 1905.

Yet, this rich history remains largely unknown to the public. However, a new initiative by the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) hopes to change that.

NCBS is developing a digital museum dedicated to the history and culture of science and technology in the Bengaluru-Mysuru region, a project that its founders describe as the first of its kind in India.

The museum will cover a sweeping timeline, from Hyder Ali's Lalbagh Botanical Garden in the 18th century to the Wodeyars to the IT revolution of the 1990s.

The researchers have already identified around 50 stories, even as they are working to unearth more.

The researchers highlighted that they plan to create a website, which the viewers can access to read about the stories in an interactive form, using audio-visual elements like images, videos, long-form articles and audio recordings.

"Bengaluru is what it is today because of science and technology," said Prof LS Shashidhara, Director, National Centre for Biological Research (Constituent Centre of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research).

▸ Museum, Page 7

VIT
Vellore Institute of Technology
(Deemed to be University under section 3 of UGC Act, 1956)
QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS BY SUBJECT 2026

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Among Top 9 in India – Engineering & Technology

India Rank	World Rank	Institution
1	36	IIT Delhi
2	42	IIT Bombay
3	62	IIT Madras
4	64	IIT Kharagpur
5	86	IIT Kanpur
6	119	VIT
7	129	IISc Bangalore
8	141	IIT Roorkee
9	166	IIT Guwahati

17 Subjects Ranked

Source: https://www.topuniversities.com/universities/vellore-institute-technology-vit-vellore-india

Key Highlights (World Rankings)

Top 100
- Computer Science (India Rank # 6)
- EEE (India Rank # 6)

Top 150
- Mathematics (India Rank # 5)
- Materials Sciences (India Rank # 7)
- Mechanical (India Rank # 8)

Top 200
- Data Science & Artificial Intelligence (India Rank # 7)

Top 300
- Chemical (India Rank # 8)
- Civil (India Rank # 8)

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Indian-Dutch citizen held for bizarre package at KIA

Rotten vegetables, garlands & obscene pictures sent to 'ward off tragedy'

BENGALURU, DHNS

A Dutch citizen of Indian origin was arrested for sending a package of rotten vegetables, garlands and nude pictures to the Bengaluru airport as part of a ritual.

Airport police arrested 65-year-old Subhash Jai Ajeez, a Dutch national holding an Overseas Citizen of India card, after he allegedly sent the package to the administrative office at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in January.

Subhash Jai Ajeez

Airport authorities were baffled after receiving a large carton containing rotten tomatoes, decaying flower garlands, iron pieces, a toothpaste cover, and obscene photographs of men and women.

A POLICE OFFICER

"Subhash Jai Ajeez claims to have sent similar packages to other airports. We are verifying that.

They deliberated on the next course of action for weeks and eventually lodged a police complaint on March 4.

Police tracked Ajeez down and picked him up for questioning.

"He claims he did not have any ill intention and sent the package to make sure no untoward incidents take place at the airport. He claims to have sent similar packages to other airports. We are verifying that," a senior police officer investigating the case told *DH*.

Ajeez, who has roots in India, was born in a South American country and speaks six languages fluently, including Dutch, German, Spanish, English, Hindi and a Sri Lankan language.

"He retired after working in Europe for a long time and receives a monthly pension of around €2,000 (approx Rs 2 lakh). With his pension money, he travels across the globe and also visits India, though he does not have any relatives here," the officer stated.

In Bengaluru, Ajeez was found sleeping near a temple in Madiwala. He has also travelled to Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, the officer added.

After interacting with Ajeez, police suspect he may be mentally disturbed.

"He is currently in judicial custody. We have approached the court to subject him to a medical examination in order to determine if he has any mental illnesses. Interrogations revealed that he did not mean to create mischief," the officer added.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds opens new showroom at K R Puram

Actor Srinidhi Shetty cuts the ribbon with Filsor Babu (to her right) and senior management of Malabar Gold & Diamonds to inaugurate the brand's new showroom at K R Puram.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds launched a new showroom at K R Puram, Bengaluru, further strengthening its presence in one of the country's most established urban jewellery markets. The brand's network has expanded to 24 showrooms in Bengaluru and 46 across Karnataka and Goa. The showroom was inaugurated last Saturday by actor Srinidhi Shetty. The senior management of Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the brand's Regional Head – Karnataka Filsor Babu and well-wishers attended.

The K R Puram showroom has been designed for a structured and comfortable retail environment, with a layout that supports easy navigation, clear product display and personalised customer assistance. Developed in line with Malabar Gold & Diamonds' global retail standards, the showroom brings together an extensive range of jewellery across gold, diamonds, platinum and precious gemstones, addressing both traditional and contemporary preferences.

Special offer

Malabar Gold & Diamonds has special exclusive offers to commemorate the launch including up to 40 per cent off on making charges on all gold, uncut and gemstone jewellery, up to 30 per cent off on value of diamond, a free silver coin with Akshaya Tritiya advance booking, and no deduction on old gold exchange with assured same-day payment (terms and conditions apply).

Wide range for all choices

A wide range across bridal jewellery, occasion-led collections, festive wear, everyday designs and contemporary styles are on display. Signature collections across diamond, uncut diamond, gemstone, handcrafted gold and polki jewellery are available, reflecting a balance between craftsmanship, design, detailing and evolving customer preferences.

"In Bengaluru, jewellery buying spans both everyday use and occasion-led purchases, with a clear focus on design, quality and ease of experience. K R Puram has witnessed steady residential growth and this showroom allows us to serve the demand there with wider collections and a retail environment that is structured, accessible and consistent", said M P Ahammad, Chairman, Malabar Group.

Curated by DH Brandspot

B'luru-Hyderabad train travel set to become faster

BENGALURU, DHNS: Trains are set to run faster between Bengaluru and Hyderabad as the railways has raised the maximum permissible speed between Yelahanka and Dharmavaram.

The South Western Railway's (SWR) Chief Track Engineer, Sunil N Maske, stated in an official letter on Tuesday that the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) had sanctioned raising the sectional speed between Yelahanka and Dharmavaram from 110 to 130 kmph.

The higher speed will apply to 132.2 km on the up line and 160.92 km on the down line, according to the letter verified by *DH*. The SWR flattened the curves and gradients to increase the sectional speed.

The sectional speed limit between KSR Bengaluru and Jolarpettai (144 km) was previously increased to 130 kmph. The SWR later increased the operational speed of superfast and premium trains on the route, reducing travel time.

Higher speed on the Yelahanka-Dharmavaram route is expected to accelerate trains between Bengaluru and Hyderabad. Vande Bharat, Duronto and other trains will likely benefit.

Auto drivers hit by LPG price hike, low supply

Unions push for Rs 20 per trip surcharge to offset losses

ASWHIN BM & AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Autos line up at an LPG filling station on Mysuru Road on Tuesday. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Due to LPG supply shortage and price rise, some auto unions in the city are demanding an emergency surcharge of Rs 20 per trip to offset rising costs.

D Rudramurthy, General Secretary of the Auto Rickshaw Drivers Union, said fuel costs are now consuming nearly half of a driver's daily income. "Drivers are losing Rs 600 to Rs 700 on gas alone out of a daily earning of Rs 1,500," he noted.

The crisis is compounded by erratic supply. While government-run bunks such as HP and Bharat Petroleum offer slightly lower rates of around Rs 77 to Rs 78, queues are long and stock is limited.

Mohammed Pasha, an autorickshaw driver, highlighted the growing frustration. "I come to this pump as it is near my house to avoid wasting fuel travelling. We are only getting about four to five litres," he told *DH*, noting that this has become a routine ordeal over the last week.

Several drivers said the "full tank" option has effectively been stopped by stations to ration the limited supply.

Suresh Raja, another auto driver, said he was struggling after buying a vehicle recently. "I bought this auto four months ago. I am now in regret and in debt. At Rs 84 per litre, five litres cost me Rs 420. We can hardly make any profit."

Joseph Harish, a driver who uses only LPG, said those using other fuel types were less affected. "Our friends who drive CNG and electric autos are continuing their business; it is those of us with LPG autos who are struggling."

At a station on Mysuru Road, around 50 auto drivers were seen waiting in queue for their turn.

Drivers said waiting for gas and returning without it had become routine. "We spend half our day wandering from bunk to bunk. Even if we find gas, the lines are kilometres long, and the stock often vanishes within an hour," said an auto driver near Bowring Institute off MG Road.

Fuel crunch

- **Auto unions demand relief:** Bengaluru auto unions are seeking a Rs 20 emergency surcharge per trip due to rising LPG costs and shortages.
- **Income hit hard:** Drivers say fuel now eats up nearly 50% of daily earnings, with Rs 600–Rs 700 spent on gas out of Rs 1,500 income.
- **Severe LPG shortage:** Limited supply at government bunks leads to long queues and rationing, with drivers often getting only 4–5 litres.
- **No full tanks:** Fuel stations have effectively stopped "full tank" refills to manage scarce stock.
- **Rising operational stress:** Drivers report wasted hours searching for fuel, sometimes returning empty-handed.
- **Financial strain increasing:** New vehicle owners are falling into debt and regret due to high fuel costs and low profits.
- **LPG drivers worst affected:** Those using LPG are struggling more compared to CNG and electric auto drivers, who face fewer disruptions.

4, including 3 minors, held for IPL match phone thefts

BENGALURU, DHNS: Four, including three minors, were held for mobile phone thefts during the IPL match on Saturday, with 21 phones worth Rs 18 lakh being recovered.

Cubbon Park police arrested the accused for a series of thefts during the opener match between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Sunrisers Hyderabad in the city.

Police said the prime accused was identified as Shubam Kumar, 26, a native of Jharkhand.

The thefts were reported around M Chinnaswamy Stadium, MG Road and the Cubbon Park metro station during the match.

The accused travelled from Jharkhand and booked accommodation in Bengaluru to commit the thefts.

So far, 29 cases have been registered. Preliminary investigation revealed that similar thefts were reported during matches in other parts of the city and in other states.

Police are probing whether the accused are part of a larger network that targets crowds during major events. Efforts are on to gather more information and apprehend other suspects involved in the racket.

Police say 21 mobile phones of various brands, worth around Rs 18 lakh, were recovered. PHOTO: BENGALURU CITY POLICE

Five held for selling fake branded watches

BENGALURU, DHNS: Five people have been arrested for selling fake branded watches, with goods worth Rs 25 lakh seized.

Central Crime Branch (CCB) sleuths arrested the accused for allegedly selling counterfeit branded watches in the city.

The accused were identified as Harish Kumar, Syed Jaisad Iqbal, Mohammed Habeeb Hussain, Khaleem Ullah and Abdul Rehman, police said.

They were selling fake watches under the name of various Indian brands at shops in RT Nagar, Ganganagar and Chickpet.

Based on a tip-off, the CCB's Economic Offences Wing conducted raids on five shops and seized 670 counterfeit watches worth Rs 25 lakh.

'Off rate' prices

Police said the accused duped customers by offering watches at "off rate" prices, claiming they were original branded products.

RPF recovers handbag with cash, gold

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Railway Protection Force successfully recovered and returned a woman's handbag containing cash and gold jewellery worth Rs 7.53 lakh on Tuesday.

At 4.50 am, a complaint was received via Rail Madad about a handbag left behind in Coach B-1 of train number 11301 CSMT Mumbai–KSR Bengaluru Udyan Express, after the passenger deboarded at Yelahanka.

Harishankar, a constable at the Divisional Security Control Room, Bengaluru, alerted N Sukumar, a head constable on train escort duty at Bengaluru Cantonment, and directed him to secure the bag. Sukumar located the handbag and ensured its safe custody.

Later in the day, the complainant retrieved the handbag at the RPF post in Bengaluru Cantonment.

Rtd banker loses Rs 2.91 cr in impersonation scam

PRAJWAL D'SOUZA
BENGALURU, DHNS

A 71-year-old retired banker from RR Nagar lost Rs 2.91 crore within a month to fraudsters impersonating Franklin Templeton, a global investment management firm.

Ramesh M (name changed) believed he was investing with the firm during this period.

Ramesh told the police that on January 29, he was randomly added to 'A7-Stock discussion group' on WhatsApp by an unknown number.

Subsequently, a person identifying as Vikas Sharma in the group reached out to him and said he was employed with Franklin Templeton and teaches "technical analysis and provides stock market tips".

In the group, another person named Michael Collins also gave tips for trading. This continued for the first month.

After gaining his trust, Ramesh was asked to download 'Geosphere-In App' from the App Store. On February 26, the victim made his first investment of Rs 50,000. Police said the app was manipulated and used by the scamsters.

"The suspects used manipulated software to show the victim that his investments were making gains. This is a standard modus operandi with this type of scam, which we have seen over the last year," a cybercrime investigator told *DH*.

Between February 26 and March 20, the victim transferred Rs 2,91,50,000 to the suspects, believing he was investing with a global firm.

The scam came to light when Ramesh tried to withdraw money from the app, but was asked to pay more.

He filed a complaint with the West Cybercrime Police, and a First Information Report (FIR) was registered on March 28. Police invoked relevant sections of the Information Technology Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

BENGALURU POLICE

"We urge the public not to fall for such scams. It is important to properly check before choosing to invest with a person or a firm. No reputed investment firms use WhatsApp groups to share tips or approach potential investors.

Man kills factory supervisor over work dispute

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 30-year-old factory supervisor was allegedly stabbed to death by his former employee in Bengaluru, police said on Tuesday.

The deceased, Rahul R (30), was a supervisor at a factory in Rajagopalnagar. Police arrested Hanumantha, a welder, near Peenya for the crime.

Police said the suspect was irregular to work and Rahul had asked him to quit if he could not be prompt at work. This allegedly angered Hanumantha.

On March 30, around 10.10 pm, he waylaid Rahul at the factory and stabbed him. Rahul was taken to a hospital where he was declared dead.

Peenya police booked the suspect under BNS Section 109 for murder.

Nigerian arrested for drug peddling, MDMA worth Rs 2 crore seized

BENGALURU, DHNS: Yelahanka police arrested a 44-year-old Nigerian national and seized 2 kg of MDMA drugs worth Rs 2 crore from his possession.

The accused, identified as Samuel Ikenna, was involved in drug peddling under the guise of selling clothes. He had come to India on a business visa in 2012 and was engaged in garment trade in Delhi and Mumbai before moving to Bengaluru last year. Police said the accused procured drugs near Bannerghatta and peddled them while continuing his clothing business.

Based on a tip-off, Ikenna was secured by a police team when he had come to sell MDMA to hostel students.

Yelahanka police registered a case and further investigation is on.

TRADITIONAL SPECTACLE

Devotees take part in the festivities at the Sri Dharmaraya Swamy Temple in Thigalarpet in Bengaluru on Tuesday, as part of Karaga. DH PHOTO

SELECTION OF THE SERVICE PROVIDER FOR DESIGNATED HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

Tender No.: H-PC-LAB-02-2025-26-RT; date: 26-03-2026. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **Name of Work:** Selection of the Service Provider for establishment, operation and maintenance of diagnostic laboratories to provide diagnostic services at the designated healthcare facilities of Northeast Frontier Railway based on Central Reference Laboratory, Hub & Spoke Model integrated through Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS). Advertised Value: ₹47,66,631.40. Earnest Money: ₹8,38,500.00. E-tenders will be **closed** at 17:00 hrs. on 20-04-2026. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website www.ireps.gov.in.

Medical Director, Central Hospital, Maligaon

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WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender on behalf of the President of India, acting through **Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer (Const.), West Central Railway, Near DRM Office, Construction Office Building, Rani Kamlapati, Bhopal (M.P.) - 462024,** invites from the reputed Contractors, for the following work. **Tender No.:** BPL/LC/T/661. **Description of work: Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of OHE in Itarsi-Jhujharpur section, including its power supply arrangement & modification to existing OHE along with associated general services work in connection with Itarsi-Nagpur 3rd line work. Completion Period:** 09 Months. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 13,66,31,171/-. **EMD:** ₹ 27,32,600/-. **Tender form Cost:** NIL. **Closing Time & Date:** At 15.00 Hrs. on 21.04.2026. The complete information of above E-tender is available in website **IREPS (www.ireps.gov.in)** and placed on the notice board of the office of DY.CEE(C)/BPL. Tenders other than in the form of e-bids shall not be accepted against the above tenders. Corrigendum/amendment, if any, to this publication would appear only on the above mentioned website and will not be published elsewhere.

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TENDER NOTIFICATION

SEALED TENDERS ARE INVITED FROM REPUTED VENDORS & SUPPLIERS TO **SUPPLY DIESEL GENERATOR SET 125 KVA MAKE KIRLOSKAR TO RSAOI BANGALORE**. RFP IS AVILABLE AT https://rsaoibangalore.in/download/

Expert panel inspects Lalbagh over tunnel road concerns

Carries out detailed geological and geotechnical appraisal

BENGALURU, DHNS

A five-member expert committee constituted by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) visited Lalbagh Botanical Garden on Tuesday to assess a proposed tunnel road.

The panel carried out a detailed geological and geotechnical appraisal of the geoheritage site, where a six-lane tunnel road is proposed to pass.

It is learnt that the committee looked for boreholes in the Lalbagh premises that private consultants had dug to study geological conditions while preparing the DPR.

During the inspection, the committee examined the detailed project report of the underground road project connecting Central Silk Board and Hebbal.

Members of the expert committee, constituted by the Geological Survey of India, during their visit to the Lalbagh Botanical Garden on Tuesday. DH PHOTO

The road is set to pass beneath Lalbagh. As per the DPR, the government requires about six acres of land on a temporary basis and about one acre permanently.

The panel is led by senior GSI official KV Maruthi and includes experts from Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad with specialisations in engineering geology and related fields.

It is tasked with conducting field inspections and assessing the potential impact of tunnelling on the Peninsular Gneissic Complex, a notified geoheritage formation within Lalbagh.

The committee is expected to submit its report within three weeks to the Additional Director General and Head of Department (Southern Region).

The panel was formed after concerns were raised by Bangalore South MP LS Tejasvi Surya, who had written to the GSI in October 2025 seeking a scientific assessment of the project.

Citizen groups are expected to meet the committee members on Wednesday with a representation carrying reports prepared by other government agencies that had raised concerns about the project on technical and environmental grounds, including lack of borehole data.

BDA fast-tracks direct road proposal for Kaniminike apts

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has initiated steps to provide a direct approach road to its Kaniminike Apartments project, aiming to resolve long-standing connectivity issues that have affected both residents and the project's saleability.

According to residents, the BDA has begun the process of acquiring land required for the proposed road. Officials said a preliminary notification for land acquisition has already been issued, and a resurvey is currently underway.

The Kaniminike housing project, spread over 50 acres in south Bengaluru, comprises around 1,500 apartments across multiple phases. At present, residents rely on two inconvenient routes—one via a narrow village road and a railway underpass, and another involving a longer 4.5-km detour.

The demand for a direct access road gained momentum after residents met BDA Chairman NA Haris and Commissioner P Manivannan in November 2025.

With additional housing developments planned in the area, improved connectivity is expected to enhance occupancy and make the Kaniminike project more attractive to prospective buyers.

Ex-councillor says govt buildings owe Rs 472 cr to civic body

BENGALURU, DHNS: Former councillor NR Ramesh on Tuesday urged civic authorities to take action against government buildings that have accumulated massive service tax arrears before targeting middle- and lower-middle class property owners.

NR Ramesh

He called for stringent measures, including the attachment of key administrative centres such as the Vidhana Soudha, Vikasa Soudha and Raj Bhavan, claiming that these buildings together owe Rs 472.66 crore to the civic body.

In his complaint, Ramesh stated that the arrears have built up over several years, with departments operating from these premises allegedly failing to pay service tax.

According to the complaint, the East Zone accounts for the highest dues at Rs 246.39 crore

According to the complaint, the East Zone accounts for the highest dues at Rs 246.39 crore, followed by Yelahanka (Rs 67.48 crore), Rajarajeshwari Nagar (Rs 57.52 crore), Mahadevapura (Rs 39.13 crore), South Zone (Rs 33.70 crore), Bommanahalli (Rs 5.68 crore), Dasarahalli (Rs 4.17 crore), and West Zone (Rs 3.61 crore).

Senior officials in the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) said they are aware of the pending dues and noted that the state government provides an annual grant of Rs 3,000 crore to Bengaluru.

"If we strictly enforce the rules, the government can adjust the grant towards these arrears. The pending dues from government buildings are not a major issue," an official said.

Invites to be published should be sent to:
incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.
Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

Citizens rally for BMTC feeder bus use in HSR, Haralur areas

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Residents of HSR Layout, Haralur and surrounding areas have launched an awareness drive to promote BMTC metro feeder buses and ease traffic congestion.

In March, the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) launched eight new feeder bus services to improve first- and last-mile connectivity on Namma Metro's Yellow Line.

The new routes connect the Hosa Road, Singasandra and Kudlu Gate metro stations with nearby residential and commercial areas, including a ring route from the Hosa Road metro station via Central Prison, National Public School, Haralur, Haralur Cross, Agara, Parangipalya, Somasundarapalya, Kudlu Gate and Singasandra.

Residents rally to boost BMTC metro feeder buses, paving the way for smoother commutes and less traffic. DH PHOTO

"When the Metro Yellow Line was first launched, connectivity was a major issue. People stayed away from the metro services because of this. So, a bunch of residents got together and rallied to get more metro feeders to make the service more accessible, especially in areas like Haralur, which has a huge population.

"Now that the BMTC has given us these buses, we believe it is our duty as citizens to promote them so that there is increased adoption," shared Lalithamba BV, civic volunteer, Community Task Force.

More than 1,600 residents have come together to support the initiative, she said.

Lokayukta cracks down on BSWML over garbage issues

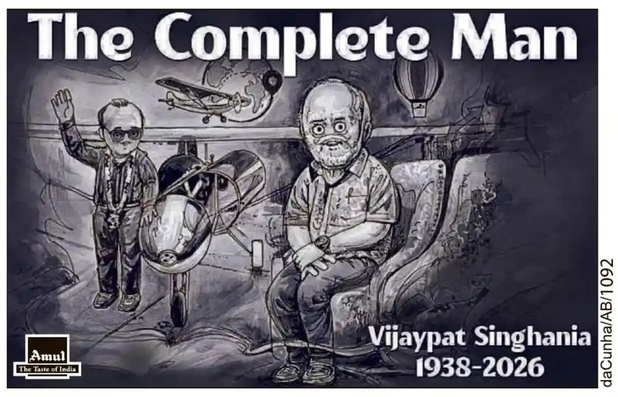
BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Lokayukta has summoned senior Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) officials after finding uncollected garbage and poor waste management in parts of the city.

The notice follows a surprise inspection by Lokayukta officials in areas such as Gottigere, Anjanapura, JP Nagar 9th Phase, and nearby localities.

During the visit, officials found large heaps of garbage piled along roadsides.

Expressing dissatisfaction, Lokayukta BS Patil said continued negligence in waste clearance could pose health risks to residents.

He directed the Chief Operating Officer of BSWML and other senior officials, including zonal and assistant general managers, to appear for a hearing on Thursday at 3.30 pm. They have been asked to submit a detailed report explaining the lapses and the measures being taken to address the issue.



daCunha/AB/1092

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

RELIGIOUS

Karaga celebrations: Karaga Kunte at 9 am; Karaga Shaktyotsava from 10 pm; Dharmarayaswamy Temple, Thigalarpet.

88th Sri Ramanavami Sangeetsava: Vocal concert and special lecture; Sri Ramseva Mandali Ramanavami Celebration Trust; Kote High School premises, Chamarajpet; 5 pm.

33rd Sri Ramanavami Music Festival: Srivani Kala Kendra, Basaveshwaranagar; 6.30 pm.

Dasavani Vocals: Vyalikaval Extension Association; Sri Rama Temple, 9th Main Road, Vyalikaval; 6.30 pm.

Muthyalamma Devi Rathotsava: Muthyalamma Devi Temple Trust; Muthyalamma Street, Shivajinagar; 7 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Partly cloudy sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	33.4°C
Minimum	22.3°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as f 5:30 pm)	40%
Sunset (Apr 1)	6:31 pm
Sunrise (Apr 2)	6:17 am
Moonrise	5:11 pm
Moonset	4:55 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

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4	Computer Lab Attendant	01	Regular/ Contractual Panel
5	Special Educator	01	Contractual
6	Helpers – Male/ Female	02 + 01	Regular and Contractual / Panel

Details of qualifications and documents required to be checked on **www.afsaste.edu.in.** Hard copies of resume/CV, along with copies of education and experience testimonials, Aadhaar card, PAN card, one passport size photograph and covering letter stating the post applied for with complete contact details (i.e. present address, mobile nos, email id) should be submitted/posted to **Air Force School ASTE, GV Camp, Murugeshpalya, Bengaluru - 560 017.**

Last date of receipt is 15 Apr 2026 upto 1200 hrs.

School Management Committee (SMC) reserves the right of cancelling the selection process at any stage even after the advertisement without any notice or assigning any reason. Shortlisted candidates will be notified about the dates of the selection process through e-mail only.

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Traffic restrictions on Seppings Road for two days

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Pulakeshinagar Traffic Police have issued a traffic advisory for Wednesday and Thursday in view of a religious function on Seppings Road. The restrictions will be in place from 6 am on April 1 to 6 pm on April 2.

Closures & restrictions

Seppings Road: Closed from Coles Park Junction in both directions.

Narayana Pillai Street: Closed from St John's Church Road in both directions.

St John's Church Road: Restricted from War Memorial Junction to Haines Junction.

Alternative routes

Towards Shivajinagar: From Coles Park or Narayana Pillai Street, proceed straight along St John's Church Road, turn left at Haines Junction, and continue via Jumma Masjid Road.

From War Memorial Junction: Turn right at the junction, proceed via Assaye Road, turn left at Sindhi Colony Junction, then right onto Coles Road and left onto Haines Road.

No-parking zones

Parking is strictly prohibited on both sides of the following roads: Narayana Pillai Street, Seppings Road, Nala Road, Thimmaiah Road, Haines Road, AM Road, and St John's Church Road.

KARNATAKA GRAMEENA BANK
(A Scheduled Bank owned by Government)
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Phone : (08392) 470023, 470024, 470025, & 470026 Mob-9845652671
e-mail: iciw.inspection@kgbk.in
INSPECTION WING

Empanelment of Retired Officers of Public Sector Banks for Assisting in internal inspection related works of Karnataka Grameena Bank

Karnataka Grameena Bank, a leading Regional Rural Bank in India operating in Karnataka with 1750 Branches spread across all Districts of Karnataka State, desires to empanel Retired Officers of Public Sector Banks for assisting in Internal Inspection of Branches, Offices and Other Administrative Units of Karnataka Grameena Bank.

The particulars like eligibility criteria, remuneration, application format and other details are published on Bank's website https://karnatakagb.bank.in/ Interested candidates may download and apply for the same.

The last date for receipt of completed hard copy of applications at Bank's Head Office, Ballari is 21.04.2026.

To download notification and application form, kindly visit our Bank's website: https://karnatakagb.bank.in/ -> Menu -> Others -> Empanelment - > Empanelment of Retired Officers of Public Sector Banks (ERO-PSB's) on Superannuation / VRS in Scale I to IV for assisting in various internal inspection exercises of Karnataka Grameena Bank.

Sd/- **General Manager**
Date : 01.04.2026 Karnataka Grameena Bank Head Office: Ballari

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West Asia crisis: Europe trips hit, India and SE Asia gain traction

Tour operators say fewer Bengalureans are travelling this summer; their business is down by 40-95%

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

The ongoing West Asia crisis has upended summer holiday plans for many Bengalureans. Tour operators are reporting cancellations and a drop in enquiries for the season. Those still travelling are choosing destinations within India or Southeast Asia, and opting for shorter breaks instead of multi-week holidays.

They say Europe, a favourite during April-May, has been hit hard as most flights transit through the Middle East, where disruptions have continued for nearly a month since the Israel-US conflict with Iran began. Even direct flights to Europe and the US are now prohibitively expensive, with one-way fares touching Rs 1-2 lakh, up from the usual Rs 50,000-Rs 60,000, says a partner at Iri iFly Holidays, Vijayanagar.

Challenges have stacked up across destinations, says Ram Kishor, manager of Bangalore Classic Tours and Travels, Basavanagudi. Flights to Africa are either unavailable or steeply priced. Japan, in the middle of its cherry blossom season, is both expensive and overcrowded. And travel to China requires advance planning, as visas can take up to 45 days.

According to Cleartrip, Indians are choosing short-haul, visa-friendly countries this summer. Bookings to Kazakhstan, Thailand and Malaysia have climbed, while the Philippines has seen a threefold jump. Bali, Colombo, Vietnam, and Singapore are also sought after. However, even these alternatives come with challenges. A ticket to Thailand, which usually costs around Rs 18,000, is now about Rs 26,000.

Oyindrila Ghosh usually travels to Europe every summer. This year, she is opting for multiple short trips within India, including a bike ride to Nandi Hills.

Domestically, Cleartrip has recorded a 300% surge in Jaisalmer bookings, alongside a surprise spike in interest for Maharashtra's Jalgaon. Local operators say the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are emerging as new favourites, while demand for popular hill stations and beaches remains steady.

'Son's birthday trip'

People who are going ahead with new plans say they have been saving for their summer vacation for a long time.

Prateek Thakker had planned a Vietnam trip to celebrate his son's seventh birthday. "We like to gift him experiences, and this would have been his first trip abroad," says the PR professional and content creator. But he called it off after reading reports that jet fuel shortages are affecting domestic flights within Vietnam. He explains, "Vietnam is vast. Travelling by bus or train would take too long." The family has now pivoted to a safari in Pench National Park, Madhya Pradesh. "We chose Pench over Jim Corbett because the latter is more popular and hotels could face LPG shortages. In forest areas like Pench, hotels can fall back on woodfire if needed," he explains.

Mimi has traded her solo trip to the UAE for a group trip to Spiti in the Himalayas. The 31-year-old had planned to visit malls, go on a desert safari, try skydiving, and meet friends in Dubai and Abu Dhabi. While she lost about Rs 8,000 on her visa, she managed refunds on most other bookings. She was toying with Thailand and the Philippines too, but "skyrocketing flight prices" dampened her enthusiasm.

For Oyindrila Ghosh, a long summer getaway to Europe has become an annual ritual. But the geopolitical uncertainty has pushed her to travel within India this season, and she is taking multiple short trips. She recently returned from a 10-day visit to Kochi, and went on a half-day bike ride to Nandi Hills last weekend. "I am considering Kodagu next," says the marketing director and content creator. Southeast Asia was on her radar too, but reports of power cuts in parts of Malaysia made her reconsider.

Travel vlogger Nivedith G was set to fly to Thailand next week but dropped the plan after reading about a taxi shortage at the airport. He has now applied for a Japanese visa.

Rohit Kumar's company, Chazing Sunsets, was set to lead a group of 10 on an eight-day road trip to Jordan this week. But he shelved the plan after Iran launched missiles and drones targeting Jordan recently. The group will now head to Zanskar Valley in Ladakh for an off-roading trip instead. The company has also revised its June plans. "We had mapped a road trip from India to London via Turkey and Iran. Now, we will reroute and enter London through Russia," he says. Some, like Abhishek Baadkar, have decided to stay put in Bengaluru and use the time to catch up with relatives and old friends actively. "We don't know what's next," says the communications professional.

Travel amid war?

Some travellers admit they grappled with a moral dilemma: is it right to holiday while parts of the world are at war? But they say the pandemic reshaped their outlook, reminding them that life is uncertain and that one should travel when they can. "And what can we do to stop these wars?" one asks. Kumar adds that travel fosters cultural appreciation. "During the 2024 Russia-Ukraine war, we were on a road trip. At the Russian borders, people welcomed us warmly. It reinforced that humanity exists," he says.

POPCORN

Bitti batting

Now that the MLAs have got their pound of flesh — three IPL tickets each — you think they will sleep in peace? The cricket administrators are dreading that the leaders could come back for slots in the IPL teams. The trick may be to create an exclusive league just for our MLA-players. The match fixtures will look interesting: Freeloader Kings vs Bitti Samrats. Puksatte Punters vs Muft Maharajas. And what do you call the tournament? A suggestion: BPL. Not below poverty line, silly. It's Bitti Politicians League.

* Kannada: bitti — free

EVENTS

Music show
'Mango showers music festival', organised by Majolly Music Trust, will be held on April 3 and 4, at Crystal Palace, Sarovar Portico, Outer Ring Road and The Blue Room, Jayanagar respectively. The event is a fundraiser for music scholarships. For details, call 84949 30941.

Art exhibition
Artist Priya Kuriyan will present 'Upstairs', an exhibition of her illustrations from children's books, at Lightroom Book Store, Cooke Town. It is on until April 27. For details, call 2546 0466.

Concert
Vocalist Shubha Mudgal will perform at the closing weekend of the Women's History, Art & Music (WHAM) Festival, on April 4, 7 pm, at Indian Music Experience Museum, J P Nagar. Details on indianmusicexperience.org

CITY MIX

'Recovery lanes' soon at busy junctions

The city's traffic police department is set to roll out special passes allowing Bengalureans to rest at designated lanes along some of the busiest traffic corridors, where commute times can stretch between 30 and 90 minutes. Called 'recovery zones', these spaces will allow motorists to take a short nap or grab a quick meal while waiting for traffic to ease. Officials said the initiative aims to "reduce commuter stress" and "make better use of idle time spent in traffic." The pilot will cover key congestion points such as Outer Ring Road, Sarjapur Road, the Panathur-Varthur stretch, Silk Board junction, K R Puram and Tin Factory.

Monthly passes are priced at Rs 99, while a premium Rs 299 pass offers add-ons such as rentable pillows for added comfort.

Add-ons such as mobile charging points, and tea and snack kiosks are also being considered in later phases. To book passes or know more, visit @stressfreeroads on Instagram.

'Work-from-traffic' pilot for IT employees

With commute times on the rise, a proposal is being explored to allow employees to officially log in to work while stuck in traffic. Under the pilot, which begins today, select companies will recognise commute hours as "productive work time", provided employees remain reachable on calls. The move will initially cover key stretches along Outer Ring Road, where peak-hour commutes routinely exceed an hour.

Officials said discussions are underway with major tech firms to recognise 'work-from-traffic' as an official work format, with basic safety guidelines in place. If successful, the pilot may be extended to other congested corridors such as Sarjapur Road and Whitefield.

DISCLAIMER: This is an April Fools' Day prank. The traffic is real. The solutions, alas, are not!

IPL SIDES

Ploggers clear trash ahead of IPL match

TEAM METROLIFE

A group of 60 volunteers cleared 18 sacks of litter from outside the Chinnaswamy Stadium on the opening day of IPL 2026 on Saturday. The waste largely comprised plastic and paper wrappers, followed by discarded plastic water bottles.

The Indian Ploggers Army, which has been conducting clean-up drives on IPL weekends for the past eight years, was joined this time by volunteers from an NGO, and a college.

G Nagaraj, organiser, admits that while the GBA would clear the trash anyway, they pitch in for two reasons. "We want to make a statement that picking up your own trash is cool, like how Japanese football fans stay behind to help clean stadiums after World Cup games," he says, and adds, "If we don't clear it immediately, it gets blown away by wind or passing vehicles into corners around Cubbon Park, where it goes unnoticed." The reasons for littering outside the stadium are two-fold. "People aren't allowed to carry plastic bottles inside the stadium, and there are no bins around as Bengaluru is a bin-free city," he says.

To volunteer for clean-up drives, write to @indianplogman on Instagram.

The group cleared 18 sacks of litter on Saturday.

Here is what is on the Easter menu this year

Biscoff hot cross buns, festive grazing tables, and egg hunt cakes are the highlights of this season

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

Savoury hand pies, creme brulee hot cross buns, and egg hunt cakes are some of the less common dishes that city-based bakers are serving up this Easter.

At Hills Butter Delights, homebaker Faye D'souza has created a menu featuring a mix of traditional marzipan and chocolate eggs, and less common options like cream cheese and Oreo eggs, and marzipan eggs coated with crunchy chocolate. Faye, a self-taught baker, started baking five years ago. "The cream cheese and Oreo eggs are the most popular," she shares.

Aparajita Dasgupta, who runs Taste Tinglers, wanted to steer clear of the commonly available Easter goodies, and instead is dishing out chicken and mutton hand pies, pot pies, quiches and brownies. "Everyone is doing the same thing and I felt there would be takers for something different," says Aparajita, who worked for an airline before quitting her job after her daughter was born.

The menu also includes a range of cupcakes such as vanilla with strawberry compote, tiramisu, and chocolate with hazelnut filling.

Chef Rajat Braganza has been creating innovative festive dishes for a few years now. At his cloud kitchen, Lamara, the menu this season includes an egg hunt cake. The cake has golden mini eggs and whoever gets an egg on their plate wins a badge, which comes separately along with the packaging. The badge doubles up as a fridge magnet. "This is a fun activity that the whole family can do together," Braganza points out.

Chicken hand pies from Aparajita Dasgupta.

The menu also includes chocolate eggs with fillings such as hazelnut shortbread, dark chocolate and walnut, and pistachio. Chocolate simnel cake, a traditional Easter cake from Britain, is also available. The cake features 12 balls on top of the cake, signifying the 12 disciples of Jesus. The cake is traditionally a fruit cake with a marzipan topping. However, Braganza's version replaces the fruit cake with chocolate, and the marzipan with marzipan cream. The marzipan balls on top of the cake are also replaced with chocolate balls.

Dough Re Mi, another cloud kitchen which also curates bespoke experiences, is creating Easter-themed grazing tables with carrot cake, lemon cake, tarts, summer salads, iced tea and cheese platters. They also have an innovative take on hot cross buns — mango cheesecake filling in a croissant-style bun.

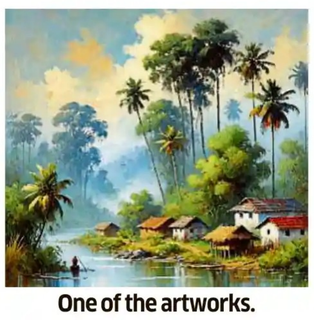
Egg hunt cake from Rajat Braganza.

At Crave By Leena one can choose from experimental hot cross buns, which have fillings such as biscoff or creme brulee. One can also opt for 'bunny patch chocolate Oreo dessert', which features chocolate sponge, vanilla custard, Oreo crumble and a chocolate bunny.

Two-day art fest to showcase 50-plus artists

Art from the Heart', an inclusive annual exhibition, will be held on April 4 and 5 at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Kumara Krupa Road.

Founded by Sravani Ramachandran under Team Pragathi, this edition will feature over 50 artists with disabilities from across India. The exhibition will be inaugurated by S Govindaraj, Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Government of India, with film producer Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar and artist Madhav Goyal as special guests. Currently in its fifth edition, the initiative has supported over 50 artists and facilitated the sale of more than 400 artworks.



One of the artworks.

'Art from the Heart, April 4 and 5, 11 am to 7 pm, Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Kumara Krupa Road. For details, call 2226 1816.

Eyes right: Beat summer ailments like conjunctivitis

Doctors report rising cases of dry eyes and sun-related damage

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

As temperatures soar, ophthalmologists in Bengaluru are reporting a rise in eye ailments. Last week, the mercury hit 35°C in the city.

Dr Naren Shetty, head of the department of cataract and refractive services at a private hospital, says cases of allergic conjunctivitis in March surged by 30-40% compared to January. There has also been a 20-25% increase in dry eye syndrome, along with a 10-15% uptick in cases of photokeratitis, which is characterised by light sensitivity and a 'sandy' sensation.

Ophthalmologist Dr Sujatha S Kiran has observed a 30% rise in such cases over the past two months, especially among children and teenagers. "We are also seeing severe irritation among contact lens users," she adds.

What to do

Dr Shetty cautions against using dark sunglasses without proper UV protection, adding that up to 20% of cataract cases are linked to prolonged UV exposure. "Opt for sunglasses with certified UV400 protection," he says. He adds that air conditioning can reduce humidity and worsen eye dryness. His advice: blink consciously, stay hydrated, and use a cold compress to relieve irritation.

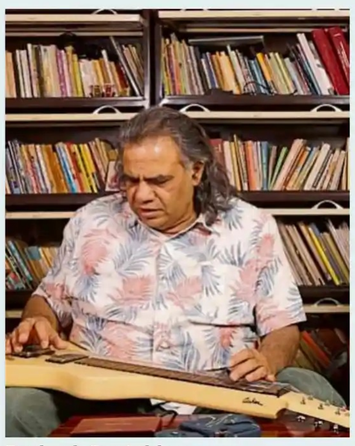
Dr Sujatha highlights the 20-20-20 rule. "Every 20 minutes, take a 20-second break and look 20 feet away to relax your eye muscles," she explains. She also recommends a 5-10 minute break after every one to two hours of continuous screen use.

Ophthalmologist Dr Srinivas H V cautions against rubbing the eyes during irritation. "You may use over-the-counter lubricating drops. However, do not use antibiotics or steroids without a doctor's prescription," he warns.

Doctors advise opting for sunglasses with certified UV400 protection.

PIC FOR REPRESENTATION/DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

Prakash Sontakke releases 'Wild chase'



Prakash Sontakke

The composition opens with ambient sounds inspired by Bengaluru traffic

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

Bengaluru-based musician and composer Prakash Sontakke released 'Wild chase', a high-energy single that offers a glimpse into his upcoming album, on Tuesday. Fusing Hindustani classical music with American country and bluegrass, the track reflects his signature approach to genre-crossing experimentation.

A sixth-generation Hindustani classical musician, Sontakke has ventured into genres ranging from jazz and blues to funk. With 'Wild chase', he brings these influences together in a fast-paced composition that was conceived spontaneously during a live performance. "I was asked to play something exciting, and the piece just emerged on the spur of the moment," he shares. Built around the electro Hawaiian slide guitar — an instrument Sontakke has played since childhood — the track highlights the instrument's ability to blend across genres. The composition opens with ambient sounds inspired by Bengaluru traffic, "before accelerating into an intense musical exchange in which the instruments seem to dart after one another", he explains.

The single features bassist Keith Peters. Peters has also worked with A R Rahman as a bassist for over three decades.

Beyond its sonic appeal, the single also reflects the idea that "everyone is on a wild chase in life — either driven by success, money, or meaning", shares Sontakke.

With over 50 albums to his credit, the musician is now adapting to changing listening trends. "Instead of listening to full-length albums, people prefer to listen to one song on repeat," Sontakke shares. The track is set for a global release under Karmic Records.

The single was released on Tuesday on Spotify, iTunes and Amazon Music. For more details, visit @sontakkeiiprakash on Instagram.

Large-format store to come up at MG Road metro station

BENGALURU, DHNS: MG Road is set to become the first metro station to host a large-format commercial and experience space.

On Tuesday, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) invited proposals to develop and operate what it described as a CBD destination space, with a minimum monthly rental of Rs 9.44 lakh (inclusive of GST).

The move comes before the December 2026 opening of the Pink Line's underground metro station.

According to tender documents, the Purple-Pink Line interchange will "attract a diverse and citywide commuter base, making this offering a unique opportunity to create a landmark commercial destination".

"The project enables the development of a single, integrated commercial destination suited for high-quality, experienced-led formats such as brand experience centres, co-working spaces and lifestyle retail.

"The development is envisaged as a curated, experience-oriented commercial destination and is best suited for premium large-format users. Indicative categories include brand experience centres, flagship showrooms, co-working spaces, lifestyle retail, smart home solutions and design-led formats.

May 5 is the last date to submit the bids. The tehnical bids will be opened on May 6 and financial bids on May 12.

This is the fourth property development project BMRCL has announced since last year. It has planned a four-storey commercial complex above the underground Nagawara metro station, an 11-storey commercial building near the KR Puram metro station and one million square metres of commercial space at Majestic.

Property development is part of the BMRCL's strategy to increase non-fare revenue to about 15% of its farebox revenue. It aims to earn Rs 100 crore annually through advertisements, commercial rentals, and semi-naming rights. In 2024-25, the BMRCL's farebox revenue was Rs 753.59 crore.

Govt assures uninterrupted power supply after disruptions at Intel campus

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Energy Department on Tuesday held a high-level review meeting to streamline power supply arrangements for chipmaker Intel Design House, SRR4 on Sarjapur Road in Bengaluru, and ensured enhanced reliability and uninterrupted operations.

Gaurav Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary of the Energy Department, chaired the meeting. Sources said Intel India representatives highlighted issues concerning intermittent disruptions and their reliance on grid power supported by gas and diesel backup.

Gupta, who emphasised a long-term and sustainable approach, underlined that grid power should serve as the primary base load, with gas and diesel used only as secondary and emergency options.

"A series of immediate and strategic measures were discussed and agreed upon to enhance supply reliability. Among the proposed measures are: immediate augmentation of 2 MVA power within 24 hours, a short-term solution involving laying an 800-metre cable from Global Tech Park within 15 days, a medium-term infrastructure upgrade where KPTCL undertakes 220 kV underground cable work from Hagadur to Exora, to be completed within 45 days, and a long-term solution involving Intel establishing a dedicated 66-kV substation within Intel's premises," the department said in a statement.

The department met Intel representatives because its Bengaluru campus is the company's largest R&D hub outside the US and is a key engine behind Intel's global chip design, software development and innovation efforts.

"SRR4 Intel Campus in Bangalore is part of Intel's large R&D and engineering footprint in India, and it plays a critical role in Intel's global operations," the department said.

Summer: Govt office working hours changed in N-K districts

KALABURAGI, DHNS: The state government has changed the working hours of government offices in North Karnataka owing to summer. During summer NK region sizzles at around 45 degree Celsius.

The revised timings will come into force from April 1. According to the governemnt order issued on Tuesday, the offices will function from 8 am to 1.30 pm instead of the usual 10 am to 5.30 pm. The order will apply to Vijayapura, Bagalkot districts and seven districts in the Kalyana Karnataka region.

The government changed the office timings last year after employees exerted pressure. They had made several pleas to the district administrations in this regard. Meanwhile, the government also stipulated that employees must obey the orders of the deputy commissioners and Zilla Panchayat CEOs to work beyond the prescribed hours in emergencies.

PES university prof's 'terrorist' remark against student: Activists demand public apology

BENGALURU, DHNS: A coalition of civil society groups and over 300 concerned citizens have moved to pressure the PES University management, demanding a public apology and a high-level internal inquiry following a viral video, in which a faculty member allegedly referred to a Muslim student as "terrorist".

In an open letter addressed to chancellor Prof Jawahar Doreswamy on Tuesday, the collective Bahutva Karnataka endorsed by 379 individuals and organisations expressed shock and sadness over the incident involving Muralidhar Deshpande.

While the university has placed the professor under suspension, activists termed the move not enough to address the systemic nature of the hate speech.

The letter raises questions regarding the university's immediate response to the classroom outburst. The activists alleged that the institution has attempted to erase evidence of the confrontation.

Citing the Supreme Court's observations in the Pravasi Bhalai Sangathan vs Union of India case, the group argued that such slurs were not merely individual insults, but an effort to delegitimize group members in the eyes of the majority.

The letter reminded the university of its stated mission to create an ethically strong global workforce, questioning how such a goal could be met when faculty members lack basic humanity.

"When a student is singled out and verbally attacked because of his religious community, it creates an unsafe space for all students from marginalised backgrounds," the collective said.

The signatories have laid out a list of immediate actions for the PES management, a formal, public apology to the student and his family, full transparency and cooperation with the ongoing police investigation into the hate speech, a probe into how such dangerous mindsets were allowed to be expressed freely on campus, an inquiry into allegations of deleted CCTV footage, suspension of supportive students and collaborating with the student body to draft a comprehensive policy to address campus discrimination.

Key trials for Pink Line trains delayed, May opening doubtful

RDSO trials yet to begin, finishing work at stations slow

MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Key trials for Pink Line trains have been delayed due to technical issues, potentially affecting plans to open the 7.5-km elevated metro corridor this May, sources familiar with the matter said.

The Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO), under the Ministry of Railways, conducts various trials for new rolling stock (trains) and their interaction with the track and signalling systems.

The trials cover oscillation, braking, speed and system integration tests among others. Without the RDSO trial certification, new trains cannot operate.

According to well-placed sources in Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), the Railway Board has raised queries about certain technical issues related to design approvals before the RDSO trials can begin.

"We're addressing the queries and haven't yet received a definitive timeline for the trials," one of the sources told *DH*.

The trials typically take two to three weeks. If successful, the RDSO issues a report and a speed certificate, which the BMRCL submits to the Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety (CMRS) for rolling stock inspection and final approval from the Ministry of Railways. After this, the RDSO issues the final speed certificate.

The BMRCL takes this certificate to the CMRS for a statutory inspection of the line for passenger operations.

A view of the Hulimavu Metro Station on Bannerghatta Road on March 26. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

It also requires the Independent Safety Assessment (ISA) certification for signalling and train control systems.

The ISA certification for the Pink Line will be provided by Jodova Technologies Pvt Ltd, a company based in HSR Layout, Bengaluru.

In November 2025, Jodova Technologies won a Rs 3.51-crore contract to provide ISA services for signalling and train control systems for the Pink and Blue lines.

"The ISA agency will review the safety case — documents certifying that the signalling system is safe — and verify compliance," the source added.

French multinational Alstom Transport won the contract to supply the signalling system for the Pink and Blue lines. As with the Yellow Line, the BMRCL is going for Communications Based Train Control (CBTC), which allows driverless train operations.

The whole process — RDSO to CMRS certification — could take more than two months, meaning the May deadline is doubtful.

Work on stations

Meanwhile, architectural finishing works at the Pink Line's six elevated stations are progressing slowly, according to sources. These works are undertaken after the main structure is completed.

Mysore Light and Interiors Pvt Ltd is doing the work at four stations (Hulimavu, IIMB, JP Nagar 4th Phase and Tavarekere) while ANU Constructions is doing the work for Kalena Agrahara. The work for the Jayadeva Hospital station was undertaken by the Yellow Line contractor.

The BMRCL has already received four trains from Bengaluru-headquartered BEML for the Pink Line and expects two more by May.

With four trains, peak-hour frequency on the 7.5-km section will be 5-6 minutes, the sources said.

The elevated Pink Line will bring metro connectivity to Bannerghatta Road and create Bengaluru's third interchange at Jayadeva Hospital.

The Pink Line's 13.75-km underground section (Dairy Circle-Nagawara) is slated to open in December.

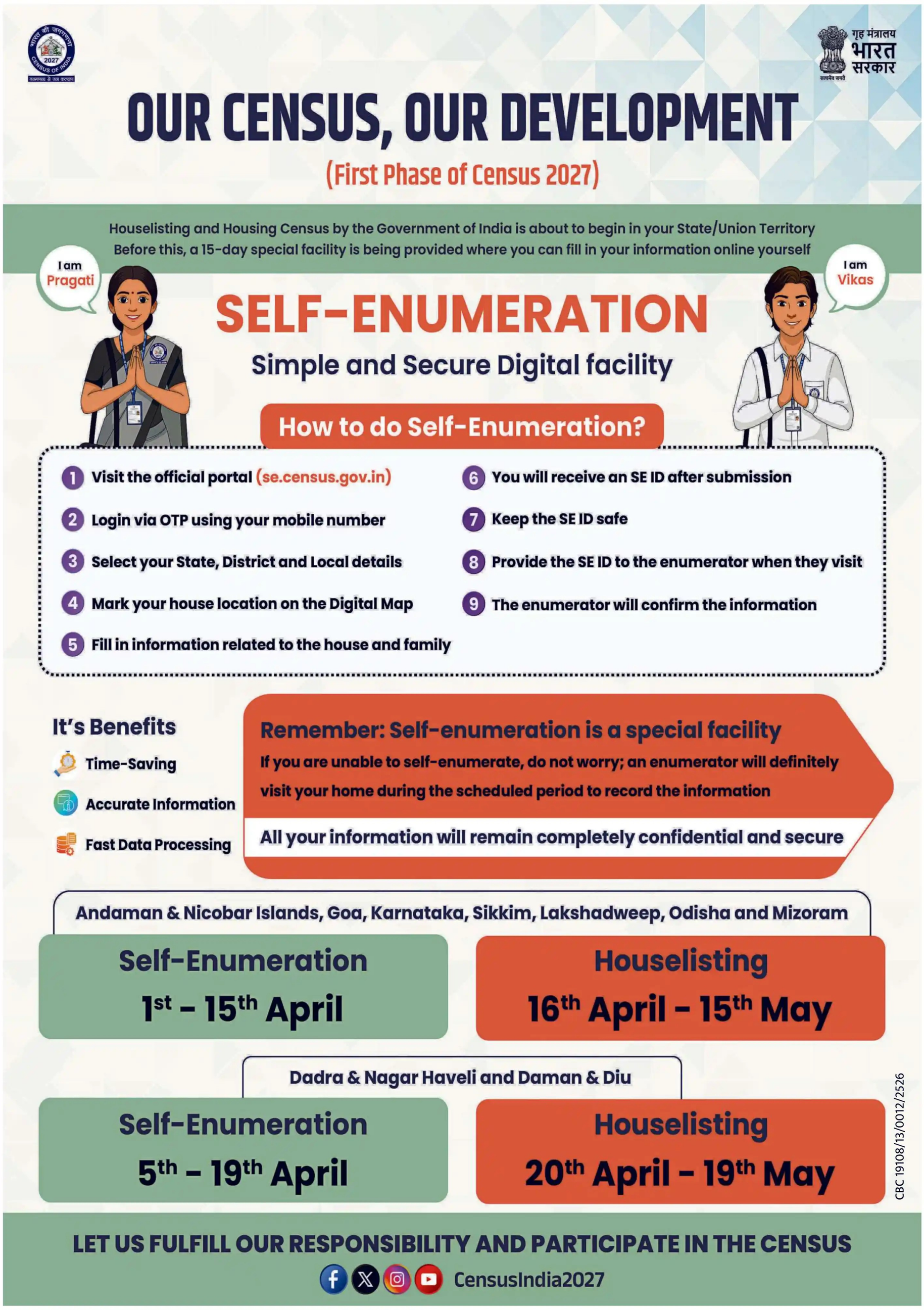
'Love failure': Teenager ends life by crashing bike into bus

VIJAYAPURA, DHNS: In a bizarre incident, a 19-year-old lovelorn boy ended his life in a blaze, literally, when he rammed his speeding bike into a Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC) bus near the Kannolli tollgate in Sindagi taluk, Vijayapura on Tuesday.

Such was the speed at which Abhishek Sahebgowda Nagarahalli was riding his bike that, on impact, he found himself plastered to the face of the bus. Almost immediately both the bike and the bus caught fire, and Abhishek was burnt alive. Thankfully, passengers on board the bus managed to escape before the flames consumed both the vehicles.

Meanwhile, in a purported video he recorded before taking the drastic step, Abhishek confessed to loving a girl called whose mother and relatives, he alleged, had tried to keep them apart.

Vijayapura district Superintendent of Police Laxman Nimbaragi said that Abhishek's bereaved kin had not yet lodged any complaint in connection with his death. "As of now, we are treating this as an accident," the SP said.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◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka

Forecast April 01: Dry weather likely to prevail over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	35.8	21.4	00
Bidar	36.4	19.2	00
Vijayapura	37.5	21.2	00
Dharwad	34.8	20.5	00
Haveri	NA	NA	00
Kalaburagi	39	22.4	00
Raichur	38	24	0.6
COASTAL			
Honnavar	NA	NA	00
Karwar	35.2	24.4	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	33.7	24.9	00

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	29.5	20.2	00
Bengaluru	33.2	22.4	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	36.2	21.9	00
Davangere	35.5	20	00
Hassan	33.9	14.6	00
Mysuru	34	21	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	34.4	19.2	00

OTHER STATIONS

New Delhi	35.1	19.4	0.5
Kolkata	33.9	23.2	05
Mumbai	32.9	25.6	00
Chennai	35.9	25.6	00
Pune	36	19.6	26.6
Hyderabad	37.4	22.8	00
Th'puram	36	24	09

State awaits clarity with Rs 2,475-cr budget for MGNREGA

No rules framed yet, says RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge

BHARATH JOSHI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Congress-governed Karnataka has earmarked Rs 2,475 crore in the new fiscal for the discontinued Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Act (MGNREGA) even as there is no clarity on the way forward.

The new Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Act has replaced the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

"There is zero clarity," Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Minister Priyank Kharge told *DH* on when and how the VB-G RAM G Act will be implemented.

The Congress government had mounted a big offensive against the Union government over the scrapping of MGNREGA.

"As the sun sets on March 31, MGNREGA, a two-decade lifeline for rural India, will quietly come to an end. Come April 1, VB-GRAM G is to take over, but there are no rules yet. No clarity on fund allocation," the minister said in a tweet.

The only update from the Union government so far is that the state has been asked to provide information on pendencies under MGNREGA.

The Union government owes the state Rs 1,943.66 crore. This includes Rs 276 crore of wages, Rs 1,607.61 crore towards materials and Rs 59.73 crore on administrative expenses.

The Congress government has mounted a big offensive against the Union government over the scrapping of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Act (MGNREGA). DH FILE PHOTO

The Union government has not spelt out the final parameters for classifying gram panchayats through which rural employment is provided, Priyank said. "Even core processes like social audits remain undefined."

Priyank warned of a "silent crisis unfolding in rural India" ahead of summer. "This vacuum will hit at the worst possible time. These are peak demand months for rural work," he said.

"Reports from the ground point to stalled works, delayed approvals and households not receiving employment despite demand," Priyank said.

"The shift from a legal guarantee to a norm-based allocation has already begun to show its impact. On top of this, a mandated 60-day suspension during key agricultural periods will further restrict access to work," he said.

At one point in time, the Congress government considered rolling out its own rural employment scheme on the lines of MGNREGA. However, this is now off the table.

"I'm capable of generating 16 crore persondays of work. But this will need Rs 7,000-8,000 crore," Priyank said.

Job scheme in 2025-26

- Number of persons provided with employment - 39.35 lakh
- Households - 22.74 lakh
- Persondays generated - 7.95 crore
- Cost incurred - Rs 2,741 crore (wages) and Rs 465 crore (materials)
- Number of works taken up - 9.11 lakh

Derogatory remark against HM: Social media handle booked

BENGALURU, DHNS: The city police have registered a suo motu case against a social media handle for allegedly posting derogatory remarks against Home Minister G Parameshwara.

The case was registered at the Cyber Crime Police Station on March 27 against @sabhyastha on X.

The handle had posted a news clipping by a local news channel with the caption in Kannada: "If the Home Minister is not upright, will his college's professor be?"

The news clipping was related to a recent incident at Siddhartha Institute of Medical Sciences in T Begur, Nelamangala, which is linked to the home minister.

Abdul Rehman Sharif, a faculty member in the Microbiology Department at Siddhartha Institute of Medical Sciences, was accused of sexual harassment. Videos of the professor allegedly proposing to one of the students in class and later being thrashed also went viral. A case was filed against him.

Centre's foreign policy to blame for fuel crisis, says Shivakumar

BENGALURU, DHNS: Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Tuesday blamed the Centre's foreign policy and decisions for the ongoing fuel crisis and rising cost of living.

"The Centre has failed to protect citizens. Wars, wrong decisions and the flawed foreign policy of the Centre have led to people suffering from the fuel and LPG price rise. What happened to 'achche din'?" Shivakumar questioned while addressing a joint press meet with All India Congress Committee general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala.

"You cannot keep citing global conflicts as an excuse. A strong foreign policy is needed to safeguard the country's interests. The Centre has replaced the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana with a firewood stove scheme," he criticised.

"People are being forced to look for alternatives. Where will they get firewood from?" he asked.

Shivakumar said, "When fuel prices go up, transport, essential commodities and construction costs all increase. Every household will take a hit. But the Centre is not intervening and instead shifting the burden onto the people."

"Toll charges are increasing, and railway ticket fares have gone up. The Centre is collecting money from people but not giving relief," he said, adding that Rs 900 crore has been collected on the Bengaluru–Mysuru highway.

Contrasting this with the state's response, he said, "We brought in guarantee schemes to support people. The Centre should also provide alternatives."

Alleging that April 1 would mark the beginning of a fresh wave of price hikes, Surjewala called it a day of "loot, rob and fleece" by the Centre.

"This 'Bele Erike' (price hike) is a direct attack on the lives and livelihoods of common people," he alleged.

"Since 2019-20, the Modi government has collected nearly Rs 23,000 crore as toll from Karnataka alone. From April 1, toll charges will be hiked by another 5%, adding an additional burden of about Rs 250 crore on people," he said.

Surjewala flagged price increases, including medicines, fuel and essential commodities. "From April 1, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority will hike prices of over 900 essential drugs, including life-saving medicines and 31 new drugs used to treat diabetes and hypertension. Also, a 12% GST continues to be levied on all essential medications. This has been the norm," he said.

"LPG prices have risen sharply, airfares are up by 10–15%, and steel, cement, bitumen and petrochemical products have all seen steep hikes," he added.

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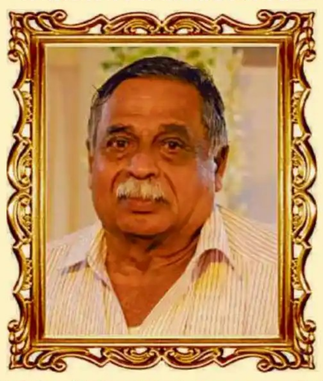
VAIKUNTA SAMARADHANE



DOB : 12.12.1950

DOD : 22.03.2026

Sri Jodidar H. Jayaramaiah

(S/o. Late Smt. Lakshmamma & Late Sri Jodidar Hanumanthappa)

Former National Kabaddi Player, General Secretary - Karnataka National Athletics and Karnataka Masters Athletics Association (R)

With deep grief and sorrow to inform the passing away on 22-03-2026, Sunday, **VAIKUNTA SAMARADHANE** will be performed on **01-04-2026, Wednesday, 12-00 noon,** you are requested to attend the Ceremony and pray for the departed soul.

Venue : "Lakshmi Nilaya", No. 458/7, 'F' Block, Opp. Axis Bank, Sahakaranagar, B'lore - 92.

-: Deeply Mourned by:-

Smt. B. R. Venkatalakshmamma, Jodidar Harish & Kruthi Harish Jodidar
Late Kavitha & Raveesh, Deepa & Suhas, Deethya, Charvi, Karunya & Jodidar Family

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PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BANGALORE ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

In the matter of the assets of the deceased Shreyance Cebastian Shaw (Died Intestate)
PROBATE C.P NO. 10 OF 2024

BETWEEN:
1. Mr. Sujay Kumar Shaw
Son of Sunil Kumar Shaw
Aged about 69 Years
Residing at Villa No.41
Heritage County, Thindlu
Village Road Sarjapura
Bangalore-562125
2. Mrs. Adeline Shaw,
Wife of Mr. Sujay Kumar Shaw
Aged about 76 Years
Residing at Villa No.41
Heritage County, Thindlu
Village Road, Sarjapura
Bangalore-562125
3.Shradha Silvia Shaw
Daughter of Mr. Sujay Kumar Shaw
Wife of Mr. Cyril Shelke
Aged about 33 Years
Residing at 678, Choctaw,
Dr San Jose 95123,
California represented by
her GPA holder
Mr. Sujay Kumar Shaw
PETITIONERS

VS
NIL **RESPONDENT**

Whereas the Petitioners above named have made the Petition under Section 278 Part IX Chapter IV of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 for grant of Letters of Administration of the properties of the deceased Late Mr. Shreyance Cebastian Shaw (hereinafter referred to as the 'deceased'), who died intestate on 01.05.2021, the Deceased was aged 33 years and he was residing at Villa No.41, Heritage County, Thindlu Village Road, Sarjapura, Bangalore-562125, which falls within the jurisdiction of this Hon'ble Court.

BE IT KNOWN that no Caveat has been entered and that the said Petition is posted for hearing on **21.04.2026** and all persons claiming to have any interest in the estate of the Deceased may come and see the proceedings before the grant of Letters of Administration.

Given under my hand and Seal of this Court, this the **11th day of March 2026**

By Order of the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka
Assistant Registrar
High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru

ADVOCATE FOR PETITIONERS
Tia Law Chambers,
Smt. Reena Monica, Advocate,
No. 11, Charles Campbell Road
Cox Town, Bengaluru-560005

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NOTICE

This is to inform all that our Udayanagar Branch presently functioning at Building No.11, Shop No.4, 1st floor, Ward No. 56, Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, 1st Main Road, Udaya Nagar, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560016 will be shifted to Room No:19, Ward No: 56, A. Narayanapura, Udayanagar, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560016 on 11.05.2026 for better convenience. (For more information please contact: 9633567336, 9207704066)

Date : 16.02.2026
Udayanagar

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Sd/- Managing Director

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Mob: 9900255222/ 9008414947

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NOTE: These records will not be available after that
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PERSONAL

Change of Name

I, SEVIYAR Joseph Kachappilly, residing at Mesemane, Bale, Narasimharajapura, Chikkamagaluru, 577134 hereby declare that my name as mentioned in my passport is Seviyar Joseph Kachappilly. I have corrected my name to Seviyar Kachappilly Joseph. Henceforth, I shall be known as Seviyar Kachappilly Joseph for all purposes. Also, my spouse name earlier mentioned as Laly should be read as Laly Joseph as per her passport.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **JAYASHREE JAGADEESH,** W/o E.S. Panduranga Dasa, R/a #102, Ravikiran Apts, 15th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-03, have changed my name to **JAYASHREE PANDURANGA** vide affidavit dtd 03-09-2024 before Notary K.Mohan, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **KRISHNA** S/o Late Anant Siddi residing at # A10, Ramanagar, Gullapura, Utra Kannada, Karnataka-581337, have changed my name to **KRISHNA SIDDI** vide affidavit dated 28-03-2026 before notary C.S. Ramamurthy Rao, Bengaluru Rural. Henceforth I shall be called **KRISHNA SIDDI** only

79% voters favour Cong in Davangere, claims DKS

Says party conducted a survey among BCs, minorities

DAVANGERE, DHNS

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar has claimed that over 79% voters favour Congress in the Davangere South Assembly constituency, according to a survey conducted by the KPCC.

Speaking to reporters in Davangere on Tuesday, Shivakumar said that the party conducted a survey of voters from backward classes, minorities, poor people in the constituency.

Replying to a query, he said Housing Minister B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan is a star campaigner in Kerala and the party has given him some responsibilities. Khan would campaign in Davangere after completing his duties in Kerala.

Rs 1.12 lakh debt on each person in K'taka: Ashoka

Terming Chief Minister Siddaramaiah as 'Salada (loan) Ramaiah', Leader of Opposition in Legislative Assembly R Ashoka has claimed that each person in Karnataka shoulders a debt burden of Rs 1.12 lakh due to the state government's total accumulated debt.

Releasing the party manifesto in Davangere on Tuesday, Ashoka said that Karnataka's fiscals were in ICU now.

"There is no financial discipline at all. Karnataka is paying an interest of Rs 125 crore per day and Rs 5.2 crore per hour towards loans amounting to Rs 2.46 lakh crore, which would translate into Rs 227 crore a day and Rs 9.5 crore an hour" he said.

He also warned that if Congress wins the bypolls in Davangere South and Bagalkot, there would not be any development in the state. So, voters must back BJP to see development works, he added.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar is welcomed by his supporters for a meeting on bypoll, in Davangere on Tuesday. DH PHOTO/SATISH BADIGER

Leader of Opposition R Ashoka releases BJP manifesto in Davangere.

'No ticket for Muslims'

Ashoka called upon Davangere South voters to end 'dictatorship' of district in-charge Minister S S Mallikarjun, by electing BJP nominee in the bypolls.

"I want to tell Muslim brothers, if Shamanur family is voted to power again, they (Muslims) will not get any opportunity for another four to five decades.

Besides, political power will be centred in one family and the party workers' style of functioning would change. People need leaders who respond to their grievances with politeness."

BJP will win both seats in bypolls by big margin: BSY

BENGALURU, DHNS: Former chief minister B S Yediyurappa exuded confidence on Sunday that the BJP would emerge victorious in the by-elections to the Davangere South and Bagalkot by-elections by a big margin.

Ex-CM B S Yediyurappa

Speaking to reporters, Yediyurappa, a BJP parliamentary board member, said: "Today and tomorrow, I am going to campaign for (Davangere candidate) Sreenivasa (T Dasakariappa). On April 5 and 6, I will go to campaign for Veeranna Charanthimath in Bagalkot. I am 100% confident that our candidates will emerge victorious in both constituencies by a big margin. Corruption is rampant in Karnataka. People's interest has been forgotten and a kind of Tughlaq durbar is being run by Siddaramaiah."

Responding to a query that Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar were camping in the bypoll-bound constituencies, the former chief minister said: "If the entire government and the CM have camped there for 4-5 days, it's clear that they fear defeat in the elections".

When told that Bijapur city MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal (expelled from BJP in 2025) had expressed the desire to campaign for the BJP candidate in Bagalkot, Yediyurappa said: "Whoever wants to come is welcome".

In Davangere South, Samarth Mallikarjun of the Congress takes on Sreenivasa T Dasakariappa of the BJP, while Umesh Meti of the Congress takes on Veerabhadraiah (Veeranna) Charanthimath of the BJP in Bagalkot.

Somashekhar writes to Yediyurappa, complains about latter's aide

BENGALURU, DHNS

Yeshwantpur MLA S T Somashekhar (expelled from BJP) has written to former chief minister B S Yediyurappa, complaining about the latter's aide M Rudresh.

In a letter dated March 30, Somashekhar has noted that he spoke in the Legislative Assembly on March 16, about farmers whose lands had been acquired.

Briefing reporters on Tuesday about the same issue, he noted that while speaking in the Legislative Assembly, he had criticised Ashok Kheny, MD of Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprises (NICE) Limited and former MLA, regarding land acquisition for the project.

He recollected having told the Assembly that he could get his suspension cancelled and return to BJP "within two days" if he so wished. Somashekar, who joined the BJP in 2019, had served as cooperation minister.

He took severe exception to Rudresh, who he quoted as having said, "Whose boots will you lick after coming to BJP?".

Noting that Rudresh was known as being close to Yediyurappa's family, Somashekhar pointed out that Yediyurappa had declared sometime ago that Rudresh would be the BJP candidate from Yeshwantpur constituency for the next elections.

The four-time Yeshwantpur MLA asked 13 questions to Yediyurappa, including, "Should anyone entering BJP lick boots?," "Is there boot-licking culture in BJP?," "Has party state president Vijayendra given full responsibility to NICE's adopted son Rudresh?," "Do you and Vijayendra prefer boot-licking?" and so on.

"When you (Yediyurappa) called, I pledged my entire political career and joined the BJP. Forgeting that, have you instigated this spineless person? I expect your answers, which will be very important in determining my future steps," the letter said.

He explained that he would personally meet Yediyurappa and raise his complaints soon.

Earlier with the Congress, Somashekhar was one of the 14 Congressmen who left the grand old party and joined BJP in 2019, leading to the fall of the H D Kumaraswamy-led Congress-JD(S) coalition government.

Somashekhar and Shivaram Hebbar were expelled from the BJP last year. At present, both Somashekhar and Hebbar are independent MLAs, but are said to be close to the Congress.

When asked about the letter, Yediyurappa said, "I don't know".

Siddu on CM term

BENGALURU, DHNS: CM Siddaramaiah said on Tuesday that he will continue to hold the post for the next two years. He was speaking at an election rally in Bagalkot.

CENSUS: HOW TO SELF ENUMERATE?

Census 2027 kicks off today, with house-listing and housing census. In Karnataka, the self-enumeration phase starts on Wednesday and ends on April 15, followed by census enumerators' field visits from April 16 to May 15. Following are the steps for the self-enumeration process.

1 Log in to - https://se.census.gov.in, select Karnataka, enter Captcha

2 Registration - Enter the name of head of household, mobile number and email (optional).

Note: Name of head of household cannot be changed later, only one mobile number should be used per household and cannot be used for any other household.

3 Verification/ location identification

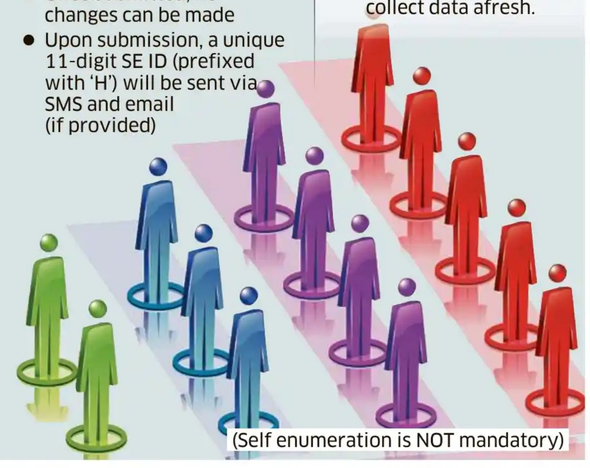
- Choose preferred language
- Enter OTP sent to registered mobile number
- Select district, enter pin, village/town/ locality
- Locate your residence by dragging the red marker on the map

4 Data entry/submission

- Fill the questionnaire with the help of tooltips, FAQs, essential information notes
- Preview filled data, edit it if needed, save a draft
- Click final submit to lock your data
- Once submitted, no changes can be made
- Upon submission, a unique 11-digit SE ID (prefixed with 'H') will be sent via SMS and email (if provided)

5 Field visit (April 16-May 15)

- When census enumerator visits your home, share the SE ID with her
- If SE ID matches with existing records, details are confirmed and submitted. If not, enumerator will collect data afresh.



(Self enumeration is NOT mandatory)

CM dares Vijayendra for open debate on budget

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday dared BJP state president B Y Vijayendra to come for an open debate in the byelection arena on the budget and the state's overall financial health.

In a press statement, Siddaramaiah termed Vijayendra's demand for a white paper on the state's financial condition as a reflection of his "lack of understanding of economics and administrative experience".

"The budget is not merely a bundle of numbers, but an honest account placed before the 7 crore people of Karnataka. The budget has been discussed and approved by both Houses. That itself is our white paper. If there are still any doubts, I am ready to provide clarifications. I am even prepared for an open debate with you in the byelection arena".

Noting that no department was in a situation where it couldn't pay salaries to its employees, he said the government had followed 2 mandates of the fiscal responsibility & budget management Act — maintaining fiscal deficit under 3% of GSDP and keeping overall liabilities less than 25% of GSDP.

*FREE ENTRY

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High Court tells FRRO to deport Thai woman as per SOP

'Prosecution will continue if SoP does not allow deporation'

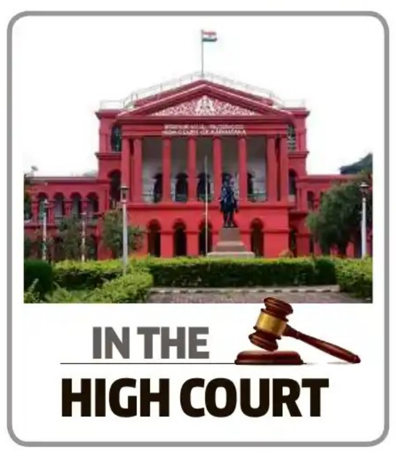
BENGALURU, DHNS

The high court has directed the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) to take steps to deport a 42-year-old woman from Thailand, arrested in an immoral trafficking case, in accordance with the standard operating procedure (SOP).

Justice M Nagaprasanna specified that the prosecution against the woman shall continue in case the SOP would not permit deportation.

The petitioner woman was arrested along with another accused in a raid conducted on February 3, in Ramamurthy Nagar police station limits.

The police registered the crime for offences punishable under BNS sections 143 (2) and sections 3, 4 and 5 of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. The petitioner was sent to the custody of the FRRO, Bengaluru, on February 5, 2026. At present she is housed at a detention centre in Tumakuru.



The petitioner woman moved the high court seeking directions for her deportation claiming that she had come to India in search of a job and become a victim at the hands of the accused.

It was stated that she is suffering from psychological illness due to legal process and she is unable to go back to her country on the score that the visa and passport are expired.

On the other hand, Shanthi Bhushan H, deputy solicitor general of India appearing for FRRO, submitted that steps will be taken in terms of the model SOP.

Justice Nagaprasanna noted that the November 25, 2025, SOP, issued by the Union of India, governs the withdrawal of prosecution in cases involving foreign nationals, with the avowed objective of facilitating their deportation.

"The FRRO shall follow the procedure in terms of the SOP and take further steps to deport the petitioner to her country - Thailand, in case if not required in any of the prosecution/proceedings," the court said.

2 students injured after falling from a moving bus

MANGALURU, DHNS: Two sisters were injured after they fell on to the road from a moving KSRTC bus near Gerukatte Reshme Road in Belthangady taluk on Tuesday.

The injured are Charishma, a class 10 student and her sister Jasmitha, a I PU student.

In spite of the injury, Charishma appeared for Hindi exam of SSLC with the help of a scribe. Jasmitha was on her way to college to check her I PU results when the accident occurred.

According to eyewitnesses, the bus, which was on its way from Gerukatte to Belthangady, was full with passengers.

As the bus approached a curve, its door opened all of a sudden. The two sisters, who were standing near the door, lost balance and fell down.

The incident was captured on a nearby CCTV camera. Charishma underwent treatment at a hospital in Guruvayanakere and later appeared for the exam. Later, she was admitted to a hospital in Ujire, where Jasmitha is undergoing treatment.

A senior officer from Puttur KSRTC division said: "We ensured treatment for the injured students". A case was registered against the driver and conductor.

Data theft crime: HC bins company director's plea

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court has refused to interfere with the investigation into a data theft crime against the former director of a company engaged in the business of quantitative trading.

Negating the arguments that being one of the founder directors and an equal shareholder, the petitioner cannot be accused of stealing data, the court held that by virtue of shareholding, one does not possess ownership over the entirety of the company's data.

The petitioner Aashay Harlalka and two others had founded the company, Plutus Research Private Limited, which was registered in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, with its corporate office in Bengaluru.

The company is engaged in the business of quantitative trading, in which the company makes proprietary algorithms to trade in the Indian stock markets. The petitioner had become a shareholder and director in March 2018 and was terminated on March 24, 2025.

The complainant, Saurabh Bhola, one of the directors, alleged that the petitioner was found stealing data, which brought disrepute to the company. It was stated that he had been intentionally and unauthorizedly altering the parameters of trading models, causing significant financial loss to the company.

The petitioner challenged the crime registered against him for offences under BNS sections 316 and 318 (4) and sections 65 and 66 of the Information Technology (IT) Act. It was contended that when he is an equal shareholder and founder director, it cannot be said that he has stolen the data.

The complainant contended that no shareholder could claim to be the owner of the data and that the company is the owner of the data. It was further contended that the act of the petitioner amounts to insider theft and grave breach of fiduciary duty.

Justice M Nagaprasanna rejected the argument by the petitioner that the data in question also belonged to him, and the allegation is akin to a father being accused of kidnapping his own child.

The court cited the judgment in the Bacha F Guzdar case wherein the Apex Court held that the company, as a juristic entity, stands distinct from its shareholders and it alone is the owner of the property.

"Once a company is incorporated under the Companies Act, it acquires a distinct juristic personality, separate and independent of its shareholders and directors. The property of the company, whether tangible or intangible, vests in the company alone. The number of shareholders or directors, whether few or many, would not dilute this foundational principle. To accept the proposition that each shareholder may lay claim to the Company's assets would lead to juridical chaos, eroding the very edifice of corporate personality," Justice Nagaprasanna said.

The court further said, "It is the allegation of downloading, copying, deletion of source code, proprietary data and confidential digital assets. All these are hues and forms of cybercrime and cybercrime investigations are highly technical and complex, involving forensic reconstitution of data."

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ

ಟಿ. ಚೌಡಯ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕುಮಾರ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು - 560 020.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಬೆಂಅಪ್ರಾ/ಅಭೂಸ್ವಾಅ/731/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31.03.2026

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವು ಸಂ. ಬೆಂಅಪ್ರಾ/ಆಯು/ಉಆ(ಭೂಸ್ವಾ)/ಅಭೂಸ್ವಾ/158/2008–09, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.05.2008 ರಂತೆ ನಾಡಪ್ರಭು ಕೆಂಪೇಗೌಡ ಬಡಾವಣೆಗಾಗಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಯಶವಂತಪುರ ಹೋಬಳಿಯ ಶೀಗೆಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಕನ್ನಲ್ಲಿ, ಕೊಡಿಗೇಹಳ್ಳಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮಂಗನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಕೆಂಗೇರಿ ಹೋಬಳಿಯ ಕೊಮ್ಮಘಟ್ಟ, ಭೀಮನಕುಪ್ಪೆ, ಭೀಮನಕುಪ್ಪೆ ರಾಮಸಾಗರ, ರಾಮಸಂದ್ರ, ಕೆಂಚನಪುರ, ಸೂಲಿಕೆರೆ, ಕೆ.ಕೃಷ್ಣಸಾಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಚಳ್ಳಘಟ್ಟ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಜಮೀನನ್ನು ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1976ರ ಕಲಂ.17(1) ರಂತೆ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ನಂತರ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18.02.2010 ರಂದು ಅಂತಿಮ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಜಮೀನಿನಲ್ಲಿನ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರು ಬದಲಿ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡುವಂತೆ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಚ್ಚ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಲವಾರು ರಿಟ್ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಒಟ್ಟುಗೂಡಿಸಿ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಚ್ಚ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯವು ರಿಟ್ ಅಪೀಲು ಸಂ.1783/2014 ರಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.02.2024 ರಂದು ಆದೇಶವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಚ್ಚ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ಆದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಿಸಿರುವಂತೆ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಗೆ ಮುಂಚಿತವಾಗಿ ಶುದ್ಧ ಕ್ರಯಕ್ಕೆ ಪಡೆದಿರುವ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರಿಂದ ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರಿಗೆ ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆನರಾ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್, ಬಿಡಿಎ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಆವರಣದ ಶಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.03.2024 ರಿಂದ 23.05.2024ರ ವರೆಗೆ** ನೀಡಲು ಅವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಪೂರ್ಣ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರು ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ, **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.04.2026 ರಿಂದ 04.07.2026 ರವರೆಗೆ** ಅವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿತ ಬಡಾವಣೆಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸದ ಸದರಿ ಬಡಾವಣೆಯ ಕಂದಾಯ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರ ಹಿತದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಮತ್ತೊಮ್ಮೆ ಸದರಿ ಜಮೀನುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಗೂ ಮುಂಚೆ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು ಕ್ರಯಕ್ಕೆ ಪಡೆದಿರುವ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಜಮೀನುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕುಮಾರ್ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ರಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.07.2026ರ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ** ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕದ ನಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲಾಗುವ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಚ್ಚ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ಆದೇಶದ ಅನ್ವಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.07.2026ರಂದು** ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ದಿನಾಂಕದ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದ್ದು, **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.07.2026ರ ನಂತರ** ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಹಾಗೂ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸದೇ ಇರುವ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಚ್ಚ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ಆದೇಶದಂತೆ ಬದಲಿ ನಿವೇಶನಕ್ಕೆ ಅರ್ಹವಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಕಂದಾಯ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರು ಬದಲಿ ನಿವೇಶನಕ್ಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿರುವ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳ ವಿವರ

1. ಪೂರ್ಣ ಅಂಚೆ ವಿಳಾಸ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ನಿಗದಿತ ಅರ್ಜಿ (ಪೂರಕ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ)
2. ಸ್ವ ವಿಳಾಸ ಆಧಾರ್ ಕಾರ್ಡ್ ಪ್ರತಿ,
3. ಸಹಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭಾವಚಿತ್ರ ದೃಢೀಕರಣ ಪತ್ರ (ಗೆಜೆಟೆಡ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಂದ ದೃಢೀಕರಿಸಿರುವ)
4. ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಕ್ರಯಪತ್ರದ ದೃಢೀಕೃತ ನಕಲು
5. ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರಾಗಲೀ ಅಥವಾ ಅವರ ಅವಲಂಬಿತ ಕುಟುಂಬ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬೇರೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ನಿವೇಶನ / ಮನೆ ಹೊಂದಿರದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ನೋಟರಿಯವರಿಂದ ದೃಢೀಕರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು.
6. ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಚಾಲ್ತಿ ನಿವೇಶನದ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿ ದರ ಪಾವತಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರ (ನೋಟರೈಸ್)
7. ಮಾಲೀಕತ್ವಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಇತರೆ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳು
8. ಇಲ್ಲಿಯವರೆಗಿನ ಋಣಭಾರ ಪತ್ರ (ಫಾರಂ ನಂ.15, 16 ರಲ್ಲಿ)
9. ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ಬಡಾವಣೆ ನಕ್ಷೆ (ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂಬರ್ ಮತ್ತು ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯಿರುವ)
10. ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗೆ/ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಇಲಾಖೆಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸಿರುವ ಕಂದಾಯ ಪಾವತಿ ರಸೀದಿ.
11. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 10 ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ವಾಸವಾಗಿರುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ದೃಢೀಕರಣ ಪತ್ರ
12. ಇತರೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳು.

ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ/ವಾಟ್ಸಪ್: 9483166622 (24x7). X @BDAOfficialGok

ಸೂಚನೆ: ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ, ನಿಗದಿತ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಹಾಗೂ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಕಾರ್ಡ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬದಲಿ ನಿವೇಶನಕ್ಕೆ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಅಪರ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಬೆಂ.ಅ.ಪ್ರಾ., ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH

Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari (Near Banashankari Temple), Bengaluru-560070

No.: EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/AE-1/47/2025-26 Date: 27.03.2026

KPPP TENDER NOTICE

Single Cover System

Tenders are invited through KPPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, for MLA, Samagra Education Major Repairs & 4202 Toilet Grants Works. The work details can obtained from the KPPP web-site. The tender documents can be obtained and submitted on or before dated: **15.04.2026** upto **4:00 p.m.** Further details can be obtained from web-site at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/-, Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Urban Dist., Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/LC/6513/2025-26

SANJAY GANDHI INSTITUTE OF TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS
(Government of Karnataka Autonomous Institute)

Byrasandra, Jayanagar East, Bengaluru - 560 011 Ph: 080-26564516, 26562500 Grams: SITO Fax: 26565222 E-mail: sitodirector@gmail.com

No. SGITO/ System Engineer/294/2025-26 Date:.31-03-2026

NOTIFICATION

Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Trauma and Orthopaedics has invited applications to fill up the following posts on contract basis. For details of educational qualification, experience, remuneration / salary, last date for submitting applications etc., are available on the institute website at **www.sgito.org**

SL. No.	Name of the Post	Number of Post
1.	Principal, Sanjay Gandhi College of Nursing Salary Rs.60,000/-	01
2.	Junior System Engineer, Salary Rs.35,000/-	01

DIPR/SI/6486/2025-26 Sd/- Director

ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸಹಕಾರ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ ನಿ., ವಿಜಯಪುರ

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ 19084/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31.03.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಮೇಲ್ಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ವಿಷಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂದಿಸಿದಂತೆ ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸಹಕಾರ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ ನಿ., ವಿಜಯಪುರ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕಿನ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಹಾಗೂ ವಸತಿ ನಿಲಯದ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಮಾಡುವ ಟೆಂಡರ್ **KW-6** ರಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ತಮ್ಮ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಚಾರಿಸಬಹುದು. (ಶ್ರೀ ಎಸ್.ಬಿ.ಪಾಟೀಲ, ಬ್ಯಾಂಕಿನ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು ಮೊ. 9448460271)

ಅ ನಂ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ (ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ
1	Construction of VDCC Bank Training Centre Building at Vijayapur (Ground floor +First floor)	3216.00	32.16	1 ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು

1) **ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21–04–2026 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.**
2) **ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23–04–2026 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.**
3) **ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28–04–2026 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.**

ಸಹಿ/–
ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸಹಕಾರ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ ನಿ., ವಿಜಯಪುರ

AUCTION NOTICE

This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of vehicles.

1) CB_SELF_LOADING_CONCRET_MIXER_ARGO_4300_AJAX
YOM – 2022
Chassis No AF1ARG48JMN001
Engine No N4E22ZAJ03856
2) CB_JEETO_X_7_16
YOM – 2024
Reg No – KA16AA8854
3) AL_DOST_GOODS
YOM – 2024
Reg No – KA07C0008
4) CB_SANY_MAKE_SY_220C_9_EXCAVATOR
YOM – 2022
Engine No 22SY220S000227
5) CB_HYDRAULIC_EXCAVATOR_EX215LCSLR_TATA_HITACHI
YOM – 2023
Engine No 22M95403985
6) CB_MARUTI SUPER CARRY
YOM – 2022
Reg No – KA663106
7) CB_AL1615_HE4750_BS_6
YOM – 2023
Reg No – KA19AE1496
8) CB_EICHER_PRO_2110_E_BS_6_CAB_CHASSIS
YOM – --
Reg No – KA19AE6560
9) AL_DOST_GOODS
YOM – -2023
Reg No – KA63A2545
10) TATA MOTORS LTD. - TATA 2518
YOM – -2019
Reg No – KA35C4238
11) CB_TATA_LPT_1416_CABIN_CHASSIS
YOM – --
Reg No – KA25AB9936

UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS (ONLINE/OFFLINE) WITHIN 15 DAYS FROM THIS PAPER PUBLICATION i.e. from 01.04.2026 (Please note that closing Auction date would not be a Weekly off / Holiday)

BRANCH ADDRESS:
KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD., 22, MG ROAD, BANGALORE KARNATAKA – 560001
OR
Contact: Arunlaxman Kokare
Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.
Contact / 080 - 61564249

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN - UO4010KA2002SGC030438)

No. SEE/KLR/AEE(Civil)/2025-26/9958-78 Date: 26.03.2026

Brief Tender Notification
(Through KPP Portal only)

The Superintending Engineer (Ele.,) O & M Circle, BESCOM, Kolar invites tenders for the following Civil Engineering works in Kolar O & M Circle through KPPP portal in two cover system.

Enquiry No	Name of the Work	Estimated Amount put to tender in Lakhs (Appx.) including GST	Time limit for completion of work including monsoon period.
SEE/KLR/ Civil/2024-25/07	Construction of compound wall at NEC behind railway track, KGF. (Reserved for Schedule tribe) (IInd Call)	50.00	03 Months (including monsoon)
SEE/KLR/ Civil/2024-25/08	Construction of compound wall and Gates around the BESCOM OEC colony at Kolar. (Reserved for Schedule Caste) (IInd Call)	100.00	06 Months (including monsoon)
SEE/KLR/ Civil/2024-25/09	Extension of Sugutur Section Office building at Sugutur. (General) (IInd Call)	10.00	03 Months (including monsoon)
SEE/KLR/ Civil/2024-25/10	Construction of O&M Urban Section office building at Kaamasamudra duly dismantling the existing old LM quarters and existing Telephone room. (General) (IInd Call)	100.00	12 Months (including monsoon)
SEE/KLR/ Civil/2024-25/11	Construction of internal drainage and providing sanitary system at NEC BESCOM colony Chikkaballapura. (General) (IInd Call)	50.00	03 Months (including monsoon)
SEE/KLR/ Civil/2024-25/12	Construction of O & M Urban Section office building at Dibburahalli, Shidlaghatta Rural Sub Division, Chintamani Division. (Reserved for Schedule Caste) (IInd Call)	100.00	12 Months (including monsoon)
SEE/KLR/ Civil/2024-25/13	Construction of alround Compound wall to Quarters Premises at Yellodu, Gudibande Sub division.(IIIrd CALL) (Reserved for Schedule tribe)	15.00	03 Months (including monsoon)

The details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through KPP mode by visiting web site http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after **01.04.2026.**

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer (Ele),
Kolar Circle, BESCOM.

For electricity related complaints call 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra MOBILE APP

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ

ಟಿ. ಚೌಡಯ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕುಮಾರ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು - 560 020.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಬೆಂಅಪ್ರಾ/ಅಭೂಸ್ವಾಅ/730/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:31.03.2026

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವು ಸಂ.BDA/Commr/DC(LA)/ALAO/10/2002-03, ದಿನಾಂಕ:14.12.2001 ಮತ್ತು ಸಂ. BDA/Commr/DC(LA)/ALAO/09/2002-03, dated:15.04.2002ರಂತೆ ಸರ್.ಎಂ.ವಿಶ್ವೇಶ್ವರಯ್ಯ ಬಡಾವಣೆಗಾಗಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಕೆಂಗೇರಿ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಸೊಣ್ಣೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ, ರಾಮಸಂದ್ರ, ಕೊಮ್ಮಘಟ್ಟ, ಕೆಂಗೇರಿ, ಮತ್ತು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಯಶವಂತಪುರ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಉಲ್ಲಾಳು ಗ್ರಾಮ, ಮಂಗನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಜಮೀನನ್ನು ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1976ರ ಕಲಂ.17(1) ರಂತೆ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ನಂತರ ಅಂತಿಮ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಯುಡಿಡಿ/654/ಎಂಎನ್‌ಎಕ್ಸ್/2002 ದಿನಾಂಕ:31.10.2002 ರಂದು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ನಂತರ ಮುಂದುವರೆದ ಸರ್.ಎಂ.ವಿಶ್ವೇಶ್ವರಯ್ಯನಗರ ಬಡಾವಣೆಯ ಸಂ.ಬೆಂ.ಅ.ಪ್ರಾ/ಆ.ಯು/ವಿ.ಅ.ಭೂಸ್ವಾಅ/79/2003–04, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ದಿನಾಂಕ:08.04.2003 ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯಂತೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಯಶವಂತಪುರ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಹೇರೋಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಗಿಡದಕೋನೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮಲ್ಲತ್ತಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಜಮೀನುಗಳನ್ನು ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1976ರ ಕಲಂ.17(1) ರಂತೆ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ನಂತರ ಸಂ.ನಅಇ/749/ಬೆಂಭೂಸ್ವಾ/2003, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಿನಾಂಕ:09.09.2003 ರಂದು ಅಂತಿಮ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಜಮೀನುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರು ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ.ಜುಂಜಮ್ಮ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರರು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಚ್ಚ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ರಿಟ್ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಂ.42483–517/2002, ಮತ್ತು ರಿಟ್ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಂ.16221–222/2003 ಆದೇಶದ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿಗಳನ್ವಯ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನಕ್ಕೆ ಬದಲಿ ನಿವೇಶನ ನೀಡುವ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಿಂದ ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಮತ್ತು ನೊಂದಣಿ ಕಾರ್ಡ್ (Registration Card) ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಅವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ದಿನಾಂಕ:09.12.2002 ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಮತ್ತು ದಿನಾಂಕ:2.11.2014 ರಂದು ಮತ್ತೊಮ್ಮೆ ಅವಕಾಶ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಚ್ಚ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ಆದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಿಸಿರುವಂತೆ, ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಗೆ ಮುಂಚಿತವಾಗಿ ಶುದ್ಧ ಕ್ರಯಕ್ಕೆ ಪಡೆದಿರುವ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರಿಂದ ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಹಾಗೂ ಅಂತಿಮ ಅವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅರ್ಹ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರಿಗೆ ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆನರಾ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್, ಬಿಡಿಎ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಆವರಣದ ಶಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಪೂರ್ಣ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರು ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ, **ದಿನಾಂಕ:06.04.2026 ರಿಂದ 04.07.2026 ರವರೆಗೆ** ಅವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಮತ್ತು ನೋಂದಣಿ ಕಾರ್ಡ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುವ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರಿಗೆ ಎರಡನೇ ಬಾರಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಅವಕಾಶವಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸದರಿ ಬಡಾವಣೆಯ ಕಂದಾಯ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರ ಹಿತದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಮತ್ತೊಮ್ಮೆ ಸದರಿ ಜಮೀನುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಗೂ ಮುಂಚೆ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು ಕ್ರಯಕ್ಕೆ ಪಡೆದಿರುವ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಜಮೀನುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕುಮಾರ್ ಪಾರ್ಕ್‌ರಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:04.07.2026 ರ** ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕದ ನಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲಾಗುವ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಸದರಿ ದಿನಾಂಕದ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದ್ದು, **ದಿನಾಂಕ:04.07.2026 ರ** ನಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಹಾಗೂ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸದೇ ಇರುವ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಚ್ಚ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ಆದೇಶದಂತೆ ಬದಲಿ ನಿವೇಶನಕ್ಕೆ ಅರ್ಹವಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಕಂದಾಯ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರು ಬದಲಿ ನಿವೇಶನಕ್ಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿರುವ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳ ವಿವರ

1. ಪೂರ್ಣ ಅಂಚೆ ವಿಳಾಸ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ನಿಗದಿತ ಅರ್ಜಿ (ಪೂರಕ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ)
2. ಸ್ವ ವಿಳಾಸ ಆಧಾರ್ ಕಾರ್ಡ್ ಪ್ರತಿ,
3. ಸಹಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭಾವಚಿತ್ರ ದೃಢೀಕರಣ ಪತ್ರ (ಗೆಜೆಟೆಡ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಂದ ದೃಢೀಕರಿಸಿರುವ)
4. ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಕ್ರಯಪತ್ರದ ದೃಢೀಕೃತ ನಕಲು
5. ಜಿ.ಪಿ.ಎ ಹಾಗೂ ಕರಾರು ಪತ್ರದ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಖರೀದಿದಾರರಿಗೆ ಅನ್ವಯಿಸುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.
6. ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರಾಗಲೀ ಅಥವಾ ಅವರ ಅವಲಂಬಿತ ಕುಟುಂಬ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬೇರೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ನಿವೇಶನ / ಮನೆ ಹೊಂದಿರದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ನೋಟರಿಯವರಿಂದ ದೃಢೀಕರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು.
7. ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಚಾಲ್ತಿ ನಿವೇಶನದ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿ ದರ ಪಾವತಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರ (ನೋಟರೈಸ್)
8. ಮಾಲೀಕತ್ವಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಇತರೆ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳು
9. 30 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಅವಧಿಯ ಋಣಭಾರ ಪತ್ರ (ಫಾರಂ ನಂ.15, 16 ರಲ್ಲಿ)
10. ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ಬಡಾವಣೆ ನಕ್ಷೆ (ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂಬರ್ ಮತ್ತು ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯಿರುವ)
11. ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗೆ/ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಇಲಾಖೆಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸಿರುವ ಕಂದಾಯ ಪಾವತಿ ರಸೀದಿ.
12. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 10 ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ವಾಸವಾಗಿರುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ದೃಢೀಕರಣ ಪತ್ರ
13. ಇತರೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳು.

ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ/ವಾಟ್ಸಪ್: 9483166622 (24X7). X @BDAOfficialGok

ಸೂಚನೆ:

✓ ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ, ನಿಗದಿತ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಹಾಗೂ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಕಾರ್ಡ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬದಲಿ ನಿವೇಶನಕ್ಕೆ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

✓ ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಮತ್ತು ನೋಂದಣಿ ಕಾರ್ಡ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುವ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರಿಗೆ ಎರಡನೇ ಬಾರಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಅವಕಾಶವಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಅಪರ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಬೆಂ.ಅ.ಪ್ರಾ., ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ಭಾಗ್ಯ ಜಲ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮೆ)

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ಅಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ಸುರಕ್ಷತಾ ಘಟಕ-3, ನಾರಾಯಣಪೂರ ತಾ: ಹುಣಸಗಿ

Office of the **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,** KBJNL, Dam Safety Unit-3 Narayanpur-585219

KBJNL/DSU-3/PB/AWP/2025-26/2609 Dated:-31.03.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ಭಾಗ್ಯ ಜಲ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ ಆಲಮಟ್ಟಿ/ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ಅಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ಸುರಕ್ಷತಾ ಘಟಕ-3, ನಾರಾಯಣಪೂರ ಅಡಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಟೆಂಡರು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ 2457 ಹಾಗೂ 2458 ದಿನಾಂಕ 16.03.2026 ಈ ವಿಭಾಗದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಅಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ **Two E-Document System** ನ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, **Qualification criteria** ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವಂತೆ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ವಿವರ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ
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2.	ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ದಿ: 08.04.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
3.	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ (ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರು, ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ಅಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ಸುರಕ್ಷತಾ ಘಟಕ-3, ನಾರಾಯಣಪೂರ ಇವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ)	ದಿ: 10.04.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
4.	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ (ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರು, ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ಅಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ಸುರಕ್ಷತಾ ಘಟಕ-3, ನಾರಾಯಣಪೂರ ಇವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ)	ದಿ: 13.04.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ

ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ಹೊಂದಿದ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರು, ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ಅಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ಸುರಕ್ಷತಾ ಘಟಕ-3, ನಾರಾಯಣಪೂರ ಇವರಿಂದ ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಸಹಿ/–

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರು,
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ನಾರಾಯಣಪೂರ.

US-returned techie ends life, wife jumps to death from 17th floor

Techie, From Page 1

According to the police, the couple had known each other since their college days in Hyderabad and stayed together for a while before registering their marriage in 2024. However, they did not reveal this to anyone, including their families.

Reddy had moved to the US, working at an IT firm for about one-and-a-half years. He lost his job and returned to India in August 2025.

He had gone into depression as he did not find a job following his return and allegedly attempted suicide a few times by consuming sleeping pills, the police said.

Shajia works in an IT company in Bengaluru.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help)

Nine killed in stampede at temple in Bihar

Stampede, From Page 1

According to the locals, there was a heavy rush in the temple. Police deployment to control the crowd at the temple was inadequate, as around 2,500 personnel from eight districts had been deployed for the security arrangements of President Droupadi Murmu, who was in attendance at the convocation ceremony of Nalanda University, the locals added.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar announced an ex gratia of Rs 6 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased and ordered Chief Secretary Pratyay Amrit to investigate the matter.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh each.

Expressing shock over the incident, President Murmu said, "The news of the death of devotees in the stampede at the Nalanda temple is extremely heartbreaking. I express my deepest condolences to all the bereaved families. I pray for the swift recovery of all those who have been injured."

"The stampede took place when there was a mad scramble among the devotees. In the process, they pushed each other, breaking the queue. In the melee, many women devotees fell to the ground," said an eyewitness. "The first ambulance arrived on the scene after 40 minutes and by then eight women had died," he added.

Nalanda SP, Bharat Soni, has constituted an SIT (Special Investigation Team) to probe the incident.

(With PTI inputs)

Amaravati to get official tag as Andhra capital

Amaravati, From Page 1

The Act makes it clear that Hyderabad will continue to be the capital of Telangana.

According to the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill, the Andhra government, after due consideration, consultation and planning, identified and notified 'Amaravati' as the new capital of that state.

Significant administrative and legislative measures have been undertaken, besides the infrastructural development in and around Amaravati, with the objective of establishing it as the capital of Andhra.

The state Assembly passed a resolution to incorporate 'Amaravati' as the new capital of Andhra and accordingly, in order to give effect to the resolution and to provide "statutory clarity" regarding the capital of Andhra, it is proposed to amend the Act with effect from 2 June, 2024.

Govt spooked over fake 'memo' on ending contract staff services

Finance dept official lodges complaint with police

BENGALURU, DHNS

The finance department, which reports to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, lodged a police complaint on Tuesday after an alleged 'fake' memo asked all overstaying outsourced employees to leave, causing panic within the government.

As many as 96,844 such contractual employees are working across departments.

The March 24 memo, which turned out to be fake, asked all departments to summarily terminate the services of those outsourced employees -- hired through agencies or based on agreements -- whose term had ended.

"No such order or official memo has been issued," Finance Undersecretary M Rajamma said in a statement.

She later lodged a complaint with the Vidhana Soudha police seeking action against persons responsible for faking the finance department's memo.

"The fake memo has created confusion in government departments," she stated in her complaint.

A Cabinet sub-committee headed by Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil has recommended that Karnataka should completely end the "outsource" system of employment across the government in a phased manner by March 2028.

"There are over three lakh vacant posts which are being filled on outsource, insource, daily wage and other ways through agencies. As a result, meritorious candidates are not being selected and the reservation policy as per the Constitution and state laws is not being followed. There's an urgent need to take serious steps to change the system," the sub-committee recommended in November last year.

Outsourcing of government jobs refers to the process where private agencies hire workers to perform work for a government agency. This system has been criticised for lower salaries and a lack of long-term social security benefits otherwise available to government employees.

To regulate the mode of employment till the entire system is abolished, and reduce the exploitation of workers, the sub-committee has recommended establishing workers' services multi-purpose cooperative societies like the one in Bidar.

The Bidar District Services of Labour Multi-purpose Co-operative Society Ltd ensures that workers get their wages and statutory facilities, such as ESI and PF. The society comes under the Bidar Deputy Commissioner and collects a 1% service fee from workers.

Also, the sub-committee has recommended the enactment of the Karnataka Outsourced Employees (Regulation, Placement and Welfare) Bill.

B'luru's journey from city of lights to Silicon Valley

Museum, From Page 1

"But this history has not been coherently chronicled, and that is precisely what we want to address," he said.

"In Mysuru, science entered mainstream society, not just at the level of one or two individuals or the palace. Institutions like Maharaja's College and Central College made science a mainstream subject at a time when most colleges across India were set up primarily to teach English literature, history, and the arts."

The team has spent the past couple of years visiting state archives in Bengaluru and Mysuru, the Sandalwood Oil Factory in Mysore, still running on British-era boilers, and the Shivanasamudra hydroelectric station, where century-old turbines sit in a kind of open-air graveyard beside the river.

"Seeing the first turbine still standing there, going down to the hydel power station in the British era trolley, it made history very real," said Sadhana Attavar, Former Director, Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum, who is working as advisor (Museum and Science Outreach), NCBS.

The decision to build a digital rather than a physical museum is deliberate. With archival material spread across multiple institutions, potentially collections in the UK, a physical museum would be both logistically and financially difficult. A digital format, the team argues, also solves the problem of reach.

Standalone kiosks will be placed in airports, educational institutions, and public spaces.

"Anyone with an internet connection will be able to access this... Indian children living abroad, people from the region now settled elsewhere, they will all be able to know this history," said Attavar.

The project is expected to take two to three years and will be executed in two phases.

For the researchers, the stakes go beyond nostalgia. "The IT revolution did not happen in a vacuum," said Dr Karthik Ram, Research Fellow, NCBS.

"It is, therefore, important to understand the history that led to this moment. Moreover, an initiative like this is a great way to get people excited about science—not just about the products of science, but about the process itself."

Graft case: Court fines official Rs 4.5 cr

Court, From Page 1

The investigating officer has committed blunders in the investigation and left out several assets, the court observed.

"Unnecessary delay in investigation for years, entrusting the investigation in a single case to multiple officers, deciding the quality of investigation depending on the background, position and societal status of the true culprits, is another face of destroying the evidence. Unless this approach is stopped, perhaps the very purpose of an investigation and the object behind the Prevention of Corruption Act would certainly be defeated," the special court said.

The court directed the officials to respond within 20 days as to why disciplinary action shall not be recommended against them for these lapses.

LORD CHANNAKESHAVA ON CHARIOT

A large number of devotees take part in the car festival of Lord Channakeshava Swamy in Belur, Hassan district, on Tuesday. DH PHOTO/MALLESH

Dept gave 'incorrect info to House' on postgraduates

'Irresponsible answers' to many queries, says BJP MLA, blames officers

BENGALURU DHNS

The higher education department provided incorrect information to the Legislative Assembly during the recent session, it has now come to light.

In a written reply to a question by BJP's Gururaj Gantihole, the department said the number of postgraduates passing out every year in the state was around 8,000. The answer was signed by Higher Education Minister Dr M C Sudhakar.

As per the reply, in 2022-23, the number of students who completed post-graduate courses was 8,996. It was 8,786 in 2023-24 and 8,031 in the 2024-25 academic year. Adding it up, the number of students who completed post-graduate programmes has not crossed 26,000 in these three years.

However, data available from the Unified University and College Management System (UUCMS) shows that the number is more than 65,000 every year.

Officials working with UUCMS, which has real data on higher education enrolment, pass percentage, etc and monitors the same were surprised with the data placed in the House.

They said, "Even we were surprised to see the numbers. No idea from where they got this data, as we did not provide it," said an official from UUCMS.

"Bangalore University alone has 3,500 postgraduate admissions on its Jnanabharati campus. If affiliated colleges are included, the number will go up to 15,000. How can such false information be provided to the House?," said a senior official of Bangalore University.

Gururaj Gantihole told *DH* that he would write to Speaker U T Khader on this.

"I will report it to the speaker. Not just this question, we get irresponsible answers to many of our questions. There is no seriousness among officers in this government. Not even 50% of our questions are considered seriously. Even in that, false information is given to at least 20% of the questions," said the legislator.

"I will request the speaker to allow a half-an-hour discussion on this matter in the next session," he said.

284 villages in state face drinking water crisis this summer

PAVAN KUMAR
HUBBALLI, DHNS:

Even as summer is just setting in, as many as 284 villages in the state are reeling under drinking water crisis. The government is supplying drinking water to 230 such villages through hired borewells and another 52 with tankers.

Sources in the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) department informed *DH* that the numbers are expected to rise during the summer months of April and May. Last year, the department, based on previous years' data, had identified nearly 6,380 villages as vulnerable to drinking water crisis.

Bengaluru South (Ramanagar) (54) district has the highest number of villages facing drinking water shortage, followed by Raichur (40), Uttara Kannada (27), Tumakuru (22), Vijayanagara (18), and others. Villages in nine districts are not facing drinking water crisis at present.

The extended monsoon in 2025 has ensured that the majority of water bodies and reservoirs have sufficient water to supply drinking water in the state. DH FILE PHOTO

The extended monsoon in 2025 has ensured that the majority of water bodies and reservoirs have sufficient water to supply drinking water in the state. RDPR Secretary Randeep D said these are preliminary numbers. "The department, in coordination with district administrations and other agencies, is constantly monitoring the situation and taking necessary steps. In the first week of April, we will take stock of the situation," he said.

Lack of water sources

One of the major reasons for nearly 6,380 villages possibly facing drinking water crisis is the lack of permanent water sources.

Speaking to *DH*, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge said that despite implementing multi-village drinking water projects, several villages perpetually face drinking water crises because they lack permanent water sources.

"My department, in coordination with other agencies, is conducting a survey to identify all the villages that do not have permanent drinking water sources," he said.

By next year, the department will select 1,000 villages across the state and try to find a permanent solution for them, he said.

He also said there are many villages where finding a permanent solution is, at present, financially and ecologically not viable. "For such villages, we may think of rehabilitation," he said.

One of the worrying factors is that even villages in Malnad and coastal districts, which receive the highest rainfall in the state, are facing drinking water scarcity.

Government data shows that at least 2,100 villages in seven Malnad districts could face drinking water crisis, followed by 1,325 villages in the parched districts of the Kalyana Karnataka region.

Randeep said the department is collecting data on all villages lacking permanent drinking water sources. Initially, a multi-department team will conduct a study and identify 1,000 villages (a certain number from each district) that lack permanent water solutions.

"Currently, these villages get water for three or four months a yea and must wait for monsoon rains to recharge their only water sources. We are exploring multiple ways to ensure these habitations receive good drinking water throughout the year," he said.

He added that this is a multi-year project, which is still at a theoretical level.

(From right to left) Harsha Kanadam, chief of Congress war room in Kerala, with Syed Saqib, convener of Kerala Congress war room, and Rajya Sabha member and Kerala poll observer Imran Pratapgarhi.

Bengalurean heads the Congress war room in Kerala

PRATHIMA NANDAKUMAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Artificial intelligence (AI) has brought to life Congress veterans – Oommen Chandy, V S Achutanandan, E K Nayanar and K Karunakaran, to lead the party's campaign in Kerala. It sure makes for better optics. However, behind the scene, a 40-member team led by a Bengalurean is quietly tracking the developments with their ears to the ground.

The Congress war room in Kerala is led by Harsha Kanadam, son of former Karnataka Assembly Speaker and former MLA from Srinivasapura K R Ramesh Kumar, who has taken the campaign from the ground zero to the digital space - from pamphlets to data-driven messaging.

"Data is the key; time, a luxury," says Harsha speaking to *DH*, who moved to Thiruvananthapuram last October to set up the hub where callers and data operators analyse feedback, track sentiment shifts and recalibrate campaign messaging in real time.

"We have 10 desks, each handling 14 Assembly constituencies. We operate through WhatsApp groups and alert leadership for strategy decisions. We monitor rival campaigns online, flag misinformation and coordinate with legal teams to report violations to the Election Commission," he said.

A graduate (BBM) in international finance and investment from the US and an alumnus of Rashtriya Military School, Bengaluru, Harsha returned to India in 2006 to pursue entrepreneurship. He joined the Congress war room set up during the 2023 Karnataka Assembly elections and the 2024 Lok Sabha polls under former IAS officer Sasikanth Senthil, who heads Congress' national war room.

An observer in Haryana, Maharashtra and Delhi polls, he led the team in Rajasthan.

A defining moment was when KPCC president D K Shivakumar inducted him in 2023 and most thought he wouldn't last. "One night, DK sir walked in at 1.30 am and found me working. He later told my father I was a better karyakarta."

Harsha first deployed data analytics in his father's 2013 campaign, helping him win consecutive terms in Srinivaspura, though the 2023 election proved different. He lost his mother to cancer in February 2023 but stepped in to help his father contest the elections in May. Asked about his political future, Harsha said, "If people see me as worthy, I will contest from Srinivasapura. My global exposure and grassroots work could be an advantage."

Iran threatens to target 18 US tech companies

Iran, From Page 1

Israel and the US launched a wave of strikes on Iran, hitting Tehran in the early morning. The video shared by Trump appeared to show a massive attack on Isfahan, and NASA fire-tracking satellites suggest explosions happened in a mountainous region on the city's southern edge. Iran has not confirmed the attack.

A satellite image taken just before the June war suggests Tehran transferred a truckload of highly enriched uranium to a nuclear facility about 20 km (12 miles) from Tuesday's strikes.

Analysts believe the truck - which the image showed going into a tunnel loaded with 18 blue containers - likely carried most or all of Iran's stockpile of uranium enriched up to 60% purity. That's a short, technical step to weapons-grade levels.

Meanwhile, an Iranian drone hit a Kuwaiti oil tanker in waters off the United Arab Emirates city of Dubai, sparking a blaze that was later put out, the Dubai Media Office said. Authorities said no oil spill resulted.

Four people were also wounded when debris from an intercepted drone fell into a residential area, and loud explosions could be heard later from another attack in Dubai.

Air raid sirens sounded in Bahrain, while Saudi Arabia said it intercepted three ballistic missiles launched toward its capital. Loud explosions were also heard in Israel not long after the military warned of an incoming missile barrage from Iran.

Gulf allies of the United States that have been hit hard have urged Trump to continue the conflict until Iran's military capabilities are destroyed, according to US, Gulf and Israeli officials.

In response to that growing anger, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi insisted Tuesday that Tehran is only targeting US forces in the region. "Our operations are aimed at enemy aggressors who have no respect for Arabs or Iranians, nor can they provide any security," Araghchi wrote on X.

The UN Security Council planned to convene an emergency session on Tuesday after officials said three peacekeepers in southern Lebanon had been killed in less than 24 hours during Israel's invasion there. In Iran, authorities say more than 1,900 people have been killed, while 19 have been reported dead in Israel.

LPG prices soar, pumps shut...

LPG Turn, From Page 1

The shortage of auto LPG and an arbitrary price increase by some stations have left several drivers hanging by a thread.

For instance, True Gas station on Seshadripuram Link Road remained barricaded on Tuesday. The management said purchasing gas at the current market rate of Rs 115 per litre makes it impossible to sell to drivers at a reasonable price. "We previously sold at Rs 85 despite buying at Rs 90 to maintain the service, but the current gap is too wide to bridge," the manager noted.

The shortage is not restricted to one locality. Drivers on MG Road and JC Nagar reported that LPG bunks in Halasuru, Adugodi and Indiranagar have been dry for days. Many stations were either closed or had long queues of drivers waiting for LPG. To add to their woes, drivers who rely on school contracts are now, owing to summer holidays, entirely dependent on the public.

A government official told *DH* that LPG shortage is limited to private auto LPG dispensing stations. "There is adequate supply of LPG in all state-backed stations like Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation. There are about 40 stations in Bengaluru where LPG availability is not a problem," he said.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

A necessary law for elder care

With the Telangana Employees Accountability and Monitoring of Parental Support Bill, 2026, the state has sought to address long-debated issues pertaining to the care of dependent parents. The legislation will apply to people's representatives and employees in the government and private sector. It prescribes that 15% of an employee's salary or Rs 10,000, whichever is lower, be deducted and paid to parents in cases of neglect. The Bill is well-intended and seeks to ensure a life of dignity and security for dependent parents. While the central law – the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, enacted by the UPA government – is applicable to all, the Telangana law is specifically intended for employees. The two laws come with varied provisions and procedures; it must be ensured that their implementation does not involve conflict.

The Bill, passed by the state assembly, underlines the increasing need for legal and institutional mechanisms to support the elderly. The breakdown of the family system has contributed to the isolation and neglect of parents in their old age. Respect and care for elders have reflected civilisational values in India but these attributes have also come under stress with the priority shifts and pressures of modern life. The Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI) in 2017-18 reported that 5.2% of elderly adults (aged 60 years and above) experienced abuse; 3% experienced abuse within their household. Verbal abuse was the most common form; physical and psychological abuse and financial pressures were also widely reported. The incidence could be much higher because many cases go unreported. Legislation on social issues typically involves serious challenges at the implementation stage. Families are different and so are their approaches to care for the elderly. These unique situations need to be treated with care and sensitivity. As Tolstoy said, happy families are all alike, but each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way. Laws should aim to reduce this unhappiness and ensure the best justice for the weakest.

Financial support for neglected parents is a welcome assurance. Implementation will be challenging

Other states have enacted laws and established mechanisms to ensure that parents are taken care of in their old age. Karnataka follows the central law of 2007, though it has also framed its own rules that have been invoked in many cases. The LASI revealed 10.1% abuse in the state, which is much higher than the national average. The government should assess the situation and the scope of the law's implementation. Its findings can help shape policy and if required, set the template for a separate legislation.

Prison breach: Reform cannot wait

The latest breach at the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison in Bengaluru, where inmates filmed and circulated videos flaunting access to mobile phones and streaming services, ought to end any pretence that these are episodic failures. What distinguishes this incident is not merely the brazenness of the act, but its context. The government had appointed senior IPS officer Alok Kumar as DGP (Prisons) to spearhead a statewide crackdown after facing acute embarrassment over the Darshan episode. In the latest video, the inmates allege that the DGP himself supplied them the phones. The entire episode might have been scripted by lower-level officials who, like the inmates, are unsettled by the disruption of the lucrative contraband trade. This appears a coordinated gambit to scuttle the ongoing prison reforms.

However, the structural deficiencies remain the primary enabler of this rot. A report submitted by ADGP R Hitendra notes that the prison is grappling with severe staff shortages, weak surveillance, outdated mobile jammers, and administrative lapses. The prison houses roughly 4,834 inmates with only 571 staff members, leaving 388 sanctioned posts – nearly 40% of the force – vacant. While the Model Prison Manual prescribes a staff-to-inmate ratio of 1:6, in Parappana Agrahara, a single officer is often responsible for 30 inmates, after accounting for the shifts – an impossible burden in a high-security environment. Surveillance is remarkably thin; with just 332 cameras, the facility monitors less than 7% of its population – a dismal figure compared to over 8,000 cameras at Delhi's Tihar Jail. The existing signal jammers are outdated and ineffective against 5G networks, allowing inmates to access communication channels with ease. The Hitendra committee has also recommended expediting new prison projects to address overcrowding in existing jails. Equally troubling is the official response. Between 2021 and late 2025, 154 cases relating to illegal activities inside the prison were registered, and all of them remain stuck at the police station level, with not even a single conviction.

Videos shot by inmates further expose poor oversight, calling for urgent corrective measures

The government should implement the report and take corrective steps immediately: fill the vacancies on priority, upgrade to 5G-capable jamming systems, and install anti-throwing nets on the compound wall. Crucially, the state must establish a board to ensure transparent staff transfers and a Central Command Centre for real-time oversight. Without these structural changes, enforcement will remain performative – and the next breach, inevitable.

CAREERS BY LOT

Graduates in the queue: India's seven wasted years

Scarce government jobs trap talent in an endless wait. Urgent policy corrections are imperative

AJIT RANADE

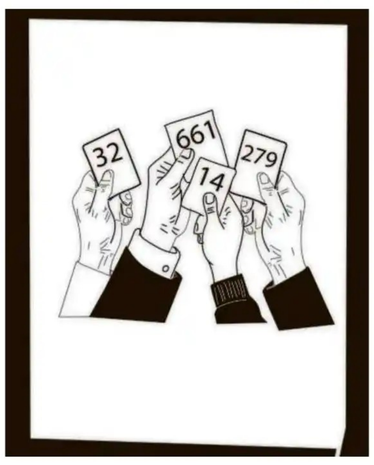
Imagine spending the best years of your life from age 22 to 29, in a waiting room. You are educated, ambitious, and capable. But the job you are waiting for has odds worse than a lottery. So, you study harder, make another attempt, and wait again. Meanwhile, your peers are earning, saving, climbing career ladders, getting married, and starting families. You are doing none of that. You are preparing for the next exam.

This is the lived reality for an estimated 11 million young graduates in India today. The fifth edition of the State of Working India report, published this month by Azim Premji University, reveals a startling statistic: 67% of all unemployed youth aged 20-29 are graduates, that is 1.1 crore people. In 2004, graduates constituted just 32% of the unemployed youth cohort. Their share in the youth population has itself risen from 10% to 28% over these two decades. But employment has not kept pace. Between 2004 and 2023, India produced roughly 50 lakh graduates every year. Only 28 lakh graduates found any employment annually, and a mere 17 lakh entered salaried work. The arithmetic of national waste is stark.

The overall unemployment rate among all graduates aged 22-29 runs as high as 33%. This rate drops to below 4% after age 30. What happens around age 30 is not success. It is resignation. Young men eventually succumb to economic pressure, marriage obligations, or parental urgency and accept whatever work is available. Young women, by contrast, often exit the labour force altogether, retreating into unpaid domestic care work. The data shows this starkly: male unemployment falls because men find some job; female unemployment falls because women stop looking.

Why do millions of graduates spend their prime years in this limbo? The answer lies in a rational calculation, which is ultimately socially ruinous. Starting salaries in the private sector have barely moved in two decades. In 2011, a young male graduate earned about Rs 21,800 a month. By 2023, this figure had fallen to Rs 19,573. That is a drastic drop, and when adjusted for inflation, it is disastrous. Government jobs is a different story. A government driver may earn four times his private sector counterpart. A government clerk enjoys health cover, a pension, job security, and social prestige. No wonder the aspiring graduate chooses to wait.

This wait takes a peculiar form: the endless preparation for competitive government examinations. A study by Kunal Mangal of Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission data found that one TNPSC Group 4 recruitment in 2018-19 drew 13.7 million applicants. About 80% of all unemployed individuals in Tamil Nadu were simultaneously preparing for a TNPSC exam. When the State imposed a partial hiring freeze between 2001 and 2006, vacancies fell by 86%, but exam applications rose by 7%. This pattern is seen across states. The government exam has become India's great waiting room.



The private sector, meanwhile, offers a treadmill at the entry level, not a career. The Economic Survey 2024-25 noted that only 8.25% of graduates work in roles aligned with their qualifications. Nearly half are in jobs that require a degree for eligibility but deliver no skill development, no learning by doing, and no career progression. Between 2012 and 2019, India's GDP grew at an annual rate of 6.7%, while employment grew by only 0.1%. Of the 83 million jobs added between 2021-22 and 2023-24, nearly half were in agriculture. Labour laws, rather than protecting workers, encouraged employers to substitute casual and contract labour for permanent employment.

The gender dimensions deserve special attention. PLFS data confirm that educated women in their early 20s report high unemployment, signalling a genuine desire to work. But by their late 20s, instead of finding employment, they exit the labour force. Marriage expectations and the assumption that domestic care falls entirely on women extinguish participation. The waste is particularly stark in medicine: women constitute 51% of each incoming batch, yet only 17% of practising doctors are women. In rural areas, just 6%. Half the talent, trained at taxpayer expense, simply disappears.

The subsidy fallout

Now consider the perverse policy feedback loop. Governments, sympathetic to the plight of unemployed graduates, respond with cash transfer schemes and subsidised coaching for competitive exams. This fiscal expenditure, though well-intentioned, tightens the budget constraint, which, ironically, leaves the government with less room to hire. Vacant Central government posts more than doubled between 2014-15 and 2021-22, from 4.21 lakh to 9.64 lakh. The subsidy deepens the exam-lottery culture; the hiring freeze defeats the purpose. State governments that subsidise UPSC coaching are, in a sense, funding the lottery queue while letting the prize shrink.

The consequences for India's reservation policy are painful. When recruitment slows, reserved posts go unfilled. SC employees in the Central government fell by 47% in absolute numbers between 2003 and 2021. When one generation gains a government post, the next generation climbs higher; that intergenerational ladder breaks when the post is never filled.

The policy prescription follows from the diagnosis. Reduce search frictions through better labour market information, job portals, and portable apprenticeship schemes that benefit both employers and workers. Fix skills mismatch through employer-driven, not certificate-driven, training. Critically, reduce the enormous premium on government employment through rationalised pay, fixed-term contracts, and wider staffing structures. Unemployment support must be conditioned on active job search, not passive waiting. And remove structural barriers that push women out of the workforce, with support like crèches, flexible work arrangements, and safety in commuting.

Eleven million educated young Indians are today squandering their most productive years in a lottery they will almost certainly lose. The waiting room has become a national institution. That is a waste of individual lives and of public investment in education. We cannot afford to let our demographic dividend rot in a coaching class or waiting room.

(The writer is an economist; Syndicate: The Billion Press)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Sole mates on swapped feet

The mystery of the mixed-up shoe followed us through our travel

MALLIKA KRISHNASWAMI

'Sir, you seem to be wearing the wrong shoes,' sounded a voice. Drawn abruptly to the present by the remark cutting through my train of thoughts, I looked at my husband, seated legs crossed, in the opposite row of the waiting lounge of Kuala Lumpur International Airport. And was I aghast to see a navy-blue shoe and a black one staring unabashed at me! And to think no one had noticed it, despite whiling away considerable time snacking at the airport food outlets due to a flight delay. Caught in the frenzy of passing through the security check and immigration, besides the long walk to reach the boarding gate, the slip-up had gone unnoticed. And before we could figure it out, the announcement came, asking to board the flight.

We joined the queue hurriedly, more to avoid the gaze of the curious onlookers. We moved quickly on the aerobridge, acknowledged the air hostess' greeting, reached our places, dumped the cabin bags in the overhead compartment and plonked down in our seats. The physical and mental exhaustion of the travel of the past fortnight and the long waiting hours at the airport took their toll, forcing our sleep-laden eyelids to close and drift into a long-drawn sleep, leaving the mystery of the missing shoe far behind. Revisiting the beautiful temples of Bangkok and the historical sights of Malacca, we were gently nudged back to reality to have dinner.

The next we knew, the flight was taxiing its way to the terminal of Kempegowda International Airport. Excited to be on home ground at last, the last leg of the journey was spent in silence as we stared in awe at a starry night above the shining silhouette of Bengaluru's sky scrapers.

In the morning, and again, my mind went over the places visited – Singapore's Botanic Gardens, Marina Bay Sands and the Universal Studios; Malacca and its heritage sites; the Buddhist temples of Bangkok, etc. Where could it have happened? Zooming in on one of the pictures, I could see an almost imperceptible difference – while the black and the navy-blue shoes looked alike, the black had a red sole. A sudden thought prompted me to call up the shoe showroom to enquire if they sold other brands and if, by a rare possibility, the mix-up could have happened there. The manager was sure they didn't.

Determined to crack the case, I started from square one – from boarding the flight at Kempegowda International Airport to the return from Kuala Lumpur International Airport – this time, thinking aloud. Sinking into our seats after a long drive and the seemingly never-ending wait, we released our tired feet and pushed our shoes under the front seat to doze comfortably. Suddenly my husband yelled out! The passenger in front must have done similarly, and, still drowsy at the end of the journey, both seem to have worn the other's shoe while alighting. Phew! Mystery solved!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rupee's steep fall challenges official optimism

It is rather amusing that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has gone on record to state that the Indian rupee was doing "absolutely fine", thanks to robust economic fundamentals. She even expressed satisfaction that certain peers, such as the South Korean won, Thai baht and Philippine peso, have declined against the dollar more than the rupee – by 4.6%, 5.5% and 4.8%, respectively – conveniently overlooking the fact that the rupee plunged 10.96% in FY26, its steepest fall in 14 years, making it Asia's worst-performing currency. The rupee has now breached the 95-to-dollar mark. But for regular intervention by the RBI, its value might well have crossed 100. It must also be understood that robust economic fundamentals and forex reserves India possesses today are in spite of the mismanagement and flawed assumptions on currency movement by the finance team led by Nirmala Sitharaman and the officials.
Tharcius S Fernando, Chennai

Silent struggles

The report 'Techie dies by suicide, partner jumps to death' (Mar 31) is a heartbreaking reminder of the silent struggle many young professionals face in our city. That two young individuals, reportedly battling depression and hidden personal pressures, felt they had no way out reflects a collective failure of support systems. In a high-pressure environment like Bengaluru's tech sector, productivity is priced over emotional well-being. It is high time companies moved beyond token "wellness days" and fostered an environment where employees feel safe to seek professional help without fear of stigma.
Angel Maria Peter, Bengaluru

Progressive step

The government's decision to introduce a grading system for the third language is a welcome step, reflecting a progressive approach towards reducing academic pressure. This initiative will promote holistic development and encourage students to focus on understanding rather than mere scoring.
Bhoomika B G, Tumakuru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

NDA will bring back 'Amma's (J Jayalalitha's) good governance in Tamil Nadu.

Piyush Goyal, Union Minister

They anxiously conjure up the spirits of the past to their service, borrowing from them names, battle slogans, and costumes.

Karl Marx

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Winning the narrative war

AI is set to alter the conventions of conflict. Narrative control will be key to deterrence

MAJ GEN J S KATARIA (RETD)

The war launched by the United States and Israel against Iran and the US' capture of Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro have been framed as 'regime change' operations. This is not the first time the superpowers have tried to topple governments. Iraq in 2003 and Libya in 2011 are examples. A closer look at these operations, however, reveals narratives carefully crafted to validate the actions.

In Iraq, the narrative was based on the claim that the regime under Saddam Hussain possessed Weapons of Mass Destruction. Maduro was accused of drug trafficking. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader killed in the strikes, was accused of human rights violations and projected as a threat to both the US and Israel. The war in Ukraine is being fought over a perceived security threat to Russia and human rights violations against the Russian-speaking population. The real causes remain elusive.

Narrative wars are typically steered through multi-domain operations, with control of the information flow – tailored for the domestic and international audiences – at their centre. The pattern of domestic projections varies between democracies and countries under autocratic regimes. The superpowers have often turned a blind eye to global opinion when pursuing a strong narrative. The ongoing war in West Asia is no exception.

The conventions of warfare – the acquisition of intelligence, followed by analysis and dissemination – find a new expression in the narrative space, with AI set to play a significant role. The application of the *saam daam dand bhed* formula still holds sway. The narrative extends to economic coercion, cyber warfare, diplomatic manoeuvring, activation of non-state actors, triggers to internal unrest, and finally, the application of kinetic means, all targeted to break the adversary's will.

The narrative of the war against Iran was set during Donald Trump's first term as President, when the US withdrew from the nuclear deal and imposed large sanctions. Operation Midnight Hammer of June 2025 and the abduction of Maduro were capability demonstrations. The 2026 protests in Iran against the administration and the subsequent elimination of its leadership were part of the larger narrative for regime change through domestic uprising.

However, the US seems to have underestimated the regime's resilience and deep controls in the clergy and the military. It remains to be seen whether the pause on strikes against Iran's power infrastructure is tactical or a real attempt to usher in peace.

So what are the takeaways for India? The narrative wars of this century will be fought with AI as one of the primary tools. This shift necessitates putting together robust counter-strategies. Staying ahead of the curve is no longer an option. The ones who don't gain control of the narrative will soon become the narrative.

Deterrence through multiple means

Acquisition, analysis, and synthesis of intelligence with speed will be the key. Our inability to stall the Parliament attack in 2001, the Mumbai attack in 2008, and the Pahalgam attack in 2025 didn't reflect well on our intelligence capabilities. Conversely, an efficient and shortened OODA (Observe, Orient, Decide, and Act) loop was evident during our precision strikes on the terrorist bases and airbases in Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, indicating a well-coordinated and synthesised intelligence system.

Cyber and information warfare have a direct impact on economic growth, energy security, and industrial development – the pillars of national security. In an October 2025 cyber-attack on the United Kingdom, sensitive files of eight RAF and naval bases were stolen, causing a serious security breach. These transgressions are becoming increasingly integral to modern-day conflicts; while inflicting damage on a nation's strategic resources, they also feed the narrative war by exposing the vulnerabilities of the adversary.

These strategic risks make it imperative for nations to be self-reliant in their AI, communication, and technological needs. Data sovereignty and technological innovation have become vital components in the security apparatus of nations.

The importance of continued modernisation of the three wings of military, the indigenisation of critical military/civil hardware, multi-layered communication satellites, and advanced missile delivery technologies cannot be overemphasised. The times call for AI-enabled air defence systems; we must also augment abilities for mass production of low-cost attack drones.

Modern wars can cause irreversible devastation of societies and economies. Preventing or curtailing them through deterrence is the smarter thing to do. Strong narratives can build this deterrence. Sun Tzu's philosophy lends some context – "To subdue the enemy without fighting is the acme of skills".

(The writer is a strategy and security analyst)

Crossing the line: Global climate change enters the red zone

K N NINAN

The World Meteorological Organisation has released its latest *State of the Global Climate* report, depicting an alarming picture of the global climate situation with the planet Earth entering the red zone with several climate parameters at historical highs.

The report notes that the atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHGs) such as carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide reached their highest level in 800,000 years in 2024. The past three years have been the warmest in the 176-year combined land and ocean observational record. These annual increases in GHGs have continued unabated into 2025. The Paris Climate Agreement envisaged limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels by 2100. Disturbingly, this threshold has already been breached in 2024, with temperatures rising to around 1.55 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The period from 2011 to 2025 now ranks as the warmest years on record.

Oceans, which generate about half the oxygen we breathe, absorb nearly 30% of carbon emissions and capture 90% of the excess heat generated by these emissions, are under severe stress. Global warming and pollution are disrupting these vital services provided by oceans, affecting marine biodiversity and leading to sea level rise. The report shows that in 2025, ocean heat content reached the highest level in the 66-year observational record, exceeding the previous high record in 2024. The rate of ocean warming over the past two decades, 2005–2025, is more than twice that observed over the period 1960–2005. The global mean sea levels peaked to record levels in 2025. The rate of global mean sea-level rise since 2012 is higher than the rate of global mean sea-level rise recorded during 1993–2011. Ocean pH (an indicator of ocean acidification) is critical for human beings because it maintains marine biodiversity, which provides food, livelihood, and oxygen for billions of people. The report shows that global average ocean surface pH has declined over the past four decades, which threatens marine food webs and fisheries and diminishes the ocean's carbon sink services.

Glaciers are critical for regulating global climate, providing freshwater, protecting habitats and biodiversity, influencing ocean and river flows and nutrient cycling. They hold about 70% of the global freshwater resources. The melting of glaciers due to global warming affects their global climate regulation functions and other services, leading to extreme weather patterns, water shortages and sea level rise. The report notes that glacier mass loss was the highest in recent years. The ice sheets on Antarctica and Greenland have both lost significant mass since satellite records began. The extent of sea ice in the Arctic has decreased in all seasons since satellite measurements began in 1979, and the annual maximum extent in 2025 was the lowest or second lowest in the observed records. The sea-ice extent around Antarctica has dropped considerably since 2015, with the past four years recording the four lowest Antarctic sea-ice minima.

The rise in global mean sea levels driven by ocean warming and the melting of glaciers and ice sheets threaten coastal cities and communities. As per the report, the rate of global sea level rise has increased since satellite measurements began in 1993. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, these levels have risen by approximately 11 cm between 1993 and 2025, based on satellite altimetry data. The rate of rise in these levels has accelerated from 2.1 mm/year in 1993 to over 4.5 mm/year by 2023.

The report added a new indicator, i.e., Earth's energy balance, to assess the status of global climate change. It measures how fast the heat trapped by anthropogenic-induced GHG emissions is accumulating in the climate system. This indicator shows that the Earth's energy imbalance has increased rapidly since 1960, and the increase has been especially sharp during the past two decades. About 91% of the excess energy retained by Earth was absorbed by the oceans, leading to record-breaking ocean heat levels in 2025.

The frequency and intensity of extreme weather events have aggravated with adverse impacts on people and nature in all regions of the world. Governments and households are forced to allocate higher budgets to cope with and recover from these weather-related disaster events. Climate-sensitive health risks are rising–dengue and heat stress being of particular concern.

The prospects for a turnaround in the global climate situation are bleak, with the United States, which is the second largest emitter of GHGs, accounting for 11-15% of annual global GHG emissions after China, withdrawing from the Paris Climate Agreement in January 2026.

The ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine and between the US-Israel and Iran is a serious setback for achieving the Paris Climate goals of restricting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius or 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial limits. The Initiative on GHG Accounting of War estimates that due to the military operations, landscape fires, fuel consumption and destruction of energy and other infrastructure, the first four years of the Russia-Ukraine war have emitted about 311 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e) with damages estimated at over $57 billion calculated at $185 per tonne of CO_2e. The attacks and counterattacks in the ongoing war in the Gulf region involving damage to energy infrastructure, including nuclear assets and oil refineries, and damage to the built and natural environment will further aggravate the global climate situation.

(The writer is lead author, GEO-7, UNEP, Nairobi, and chairperson, Centre for Economics, Environment and Society, Bengaluru)

Can the four astronauts of the NASA mission Artemis II make a difference in a distracted and divided world?

They're going to the moon. They know not everyone is with them

TIMOTHY BELLA

Why go back to the moon anyway? In the 1960s and '70s, NASA landed 12 Americans on the lunar surface. Not everyone understands why we are trying to do it again.

To the four astronauts of Artemis II, the first crewed mission around the moon in more than 50 years, the answer is simple.

Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch and Jeremy Hansen each remember looking up at the moon as children, and feeling small. They all felt part of something much greater than themselves. They say recreating that feeling is reason enough to go back. "I've been thinking, in the world that it is today, what are the things that we could do to best lift up our friends on Planet Earth?" said Wiseman, 50, the mission's commander, in an interview in January. "And what I came to was, We've just got to go do this mission."

"I hope we have a great impact on bringing the world together, even just for a minute," he added. "We don't need any stunts. We don't need any magic tricks."

Koch, one of the Artemis II crew's mission specialists, added her own take on why they are going.

"No one person can be as great as this mission," she said. "I like to think we explore, especially deeper and deeper, truly just to learn about ourselves."

There are more reasons proposed for sending Koch and her crewmates on this journey. Some American policymakers want to return to the moon before China lands its first crew there. Others hope this mission, and planned American moon landings in 2028 and beyond, will rouse a spirit of adventure central to American identity.

Yet as NASA has scheduled Artemis II, it is a moment of conflict and division at home and abroad. When the astronauts lift off as soon as Wednesday, will hundreds of millions of people in the United States and around the world pause and feel as if they are part of something bigger? Or is American society too fractured and distracted for people to feel united around the latest moonshot?

Glover, the mission's pilot, noted the parallels between his mission and the launch of Apollo 8 in 1968, another tumultuous year in American history, remembered for the assassinations of the Rev Martin Luther King Jr and Sen Robert F Kennedy. "That was a tough time in the country," he said, "and I hope that we can create a touch point for our generation that's equal to, or maybe there's a path to be even greater than, because it's current and it's ours." Glover, 49, will be the first Black person to journey to the moon. Koch, 47, will be the first woman to head there. Another mission specialist, Hansen, 50, a Canadian, will be the first non-U.S. citizen to accomplish the feat.

Family members, friends, classmates and former professors and coaches made the case in recent interviews for why these four astronauts have a chance to create a moment of mass inspiration. Just as the Apollo missions made people stop and look, they say the Artemis II crew can bring a revival of the awe, the wonder and the sublime of space exploration.

"This is the moment where we should all start believing again," Jared Isaacman, the NASA administrator, said recently. He added, "NASA once changed everything, and we're going to do it again."

NASA Artemis II astronauts (from left) Reid Wiseman, commander; Victor Glover, pilot; Christina Koch, mission specialist; and CSA astronaut Jeremy Hansen, mission specialist, stop for a group photo during a visit to NASA's Artemis II SLS rocket and Orion space craft at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida. NYT

The Commander | Reid Wiseman: In 1993, Marc Eigner received an introductory letter from the person who would be his freshman-year roommate at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York. The note, signed by Reid Wiseman, instructed him about where they would buy furniture for their dorm room. It also said they were going to have a great time. Eigner thought that either he was going to hate the guy or they would be best friends forever. Friendship won, and Wiseman and Eigner bonded over fast cars, racquetball and studying and partying together. In 2014, Wiseman called from orbit as Eigner was driving through the Holland Tunnel. After graduating in 1997, Wiseman served as a fighter pilot in the US Navy, with two deployments in the Middle East, before becoming a test pilot. He joined NASA in 2009.

The excitement of life as an astronaut was accompanied by overwhelming stress ahead of a nearly six-month stay on the International Space Station. He worried he might never see his family again. He credited the love and the support of his wife, Carroll, a paediatric nurse practitioner. Wiseman was ready to give up his life as an astronaut when she was diagnosed with cancer, but she refused to let him, according to *The Sunday Times*.

Carroll Wiseman died in 2020, at 46, around the time Reid Wiseman began serving as the chief of NASA's astronaut office. He left that post in 2022, and in March 2023 learned he had been selected to lead the moon mission. He dreaded having to tell his daughters, Ellie and Katherine, that he would leave the Earth again. The next morning, Wiseman awoke in his Houston home and found moon-shape cupcakes. They had been baked by Ellie, who, he said, had probably been most against his astronaut career earlier in his life.

The Pilot | Victor Glover: When Andre Patterson coached football at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, he had a defensive back named Victor Glover who wouldn't quit. He struggled with Patterson's defensive system, failing over and over again to execute certain plays. But near the end of the 1996 season, Glover batted away a deep ball down the sideline late in a game, helping the Mustangs clinch a championship.

Glover finished college in 1999 and became a naval aviator, serving in Iraq and later became a test pilot. He was working as a legislative fellow in Senator John McCain's office when NASA selected him as an astronaut in 2013. He did not get to space until 2021 when the SpaceX capsule he was assigned to was finally ready to fly. As part of the Crew-1 mission, he became the first Black astronaut to serve as a member of a full-duration ISS crew. Patterson wasn't surprised to see him headed to orbit.

"Whether he decided he wanted to go to space, whether he decided he wanted to be in Congress or the president, if that's what he put his mind to, Victor was going to work his tail off to get it," he said.

Early in his naval career, a commanding officer gave Glover the call sign Ike, for I Know Everything. That was reflected in his bid to become an astronaut. As he prepared for his interview, he said in the podcast "NASA's Curious Universe," he pored over files and listened to recordings from the Apollo missions. He soon came to live by a set of questions: How do I use it? How do I break it? How does it break me? When he sat down for his astronaut interview, he joked about what he called the pilot's real role on a space shuttle: making sure the toilet worked. "I would be the plumber if they needed it fixed," Glover said. He actually did some of that work on the space station. He said Wiseman informed him that he was scheduled to make sure the toilet worked during Artemis II's second day in space. "Fate is not without a sense of humour," Glover said.

Mission Specialist No 1 | Christina Koch: Like her 2013 astronaut classmate Glover, Christina Koch has already made history at NASA. In 2019, she and astronaut Jessica Meir completed the first all-female spacewalk aboard the International Space Station. After 328 days in space, she set a record for longest single spaceflight by a woman. Koch is quick to downplay any mention of superlatives, saying it does "a disservice to the real work that we're doing."

"For me, all these firsts are really not about one individual's accomplishments but celebrating where we are at," she said in the January interview. Koch, who lives in Galveston, Texas, with her husband, is the one member of the crew without a military background.

She was just 12 years old, growing up in North Carolina, when she said she knew for sure she wanted to be an astronaut. She covered her walls with posters she had bought from the gift shop at Kennedy Space Centre during family vacations. Already a member of her middle school's rocket club, she was a self-described geek finding new things to fix and build with her father.

After graduating from North Carolina State University, Koch worked at the Goddard Space Flight Centre, and then completed research during a rugged winter at the South Pole. After Antarctica, Koch became an electrical engineer at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in Maryland.

There, she showed talent developing instruments for NASA missions like the Juno spacecraft that orbits Jupiter, said Steve Jaskulek and Chuck Schlemm, two members of the lab's space department. She also helped create sweet treats for her lab mates using liquid nitrogen at ice-cream socials.

Mission Specialist No 2 | Jeremy Hansen: Sitting with his crewmates on Stephen Colbert's couch in April 2023, Jeremy Hansen joked about why the U.S. space agency was really flying a Canadian to the moon. "If something goes wrong on this mission, then NASA can blame Canada," he quipped. He is the latest Canadian astronaut to work with Americans in a decades-long partnership. A pilot in the Royal Canadian Air Force who joined the Canadian Space Agency in 2009, Hansen is the only member of the Artemis II crew who has not been to space. Jeremy Hansen admits he can be too laser-focused on his mission, forgetting to celebrate life's wins. During the interview in January in Houston he said that to prepare for Artemis II he had gone on a vision quest with a Canadian Indigenous elder to grapple with a question: How can I possibly be happy when people are dying and suffering? He finally came to an answer: "All you have to do is wake up every day and just use your energy for good."

NASA's new landscape

The ability of the Artemis II crew to inspire another generation faces political and cultural challenges. During both his administrations, President Donald Trump has set a lasting return to the moon as a priority. At the same time, scores of jobs were eliminated at NASA last year, and Trump's administration proposed a drastic budget cut to the agency that was eventually rejected by Congress.

The cultural landscape facing the four astronauts and the Artemis programme as a whole is also far less romantic and aspirational compared with that of the Apollo era.

The New York Times

Four days for free tickets, years for justice

PUSHKAR V

The last time I covered RCB on assignment before the current IPL season was on that dreadful day of June 4, 2025, when 11 fans who had come to celebrate their team never made it home. What should have been a night of joy outside the M Chinnaswamy Stadium ended in a stampede. Eleven lives were lost, many were injured, and a city that loves its cricket was left staring at its own mess. That is not a small lapse. That is a scar.

What went wrong was plain enough then, and it is still plain now. The celebrations were announced without proper planning; crowd control was weak; and even a senior police officer had warned the state government that the crowd could be too large to handle. Later, the state government itself blamed RCB for unilaterally announcing the victory celebrations after the IPL finals. This was not some surprise blow from nowhere. The signs were there, and the warning signs were there too.

In the days after the tragedy, the grief had several human faces. One father said that if he had known his son was going to the stadium, he would have stopped him. The boy, Shivalinga, had just passed class 10 and was seen as the future of the family. Another father, after the compensation was handed over, said the pain remains constant and the tragedy cannot be forgotten. These are not lines for a file or a report. These were the words from homes that were broken in that one evening.

There was action after the outrage, but it was the kind that came after the horse had bolted. Police filed FIRs against RCB, the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) and the event company DNA. Three IPS officers and two policemen were suspended and later reinstated. Two officials from RCB and DNA were arrested soon after the first FIR, although they later secured bail. Yet the biggest question remains hanging. The chargesheet is still pending, and one year later, the case has still not reached the finish line.

Cut to 2026. There is a new season, a fresh start, and the first thing people now see is 11 empty seats and a memorial plaque for the dead. The tribute is thoughtful, though there was a minor grammatical error on the granite plaque. The minute of silence was solemn; this time, the arrangements for the inaugural match, to be fair, were much smoother. Crowd movement looked better; entry and exit were better managed. That part deserves credit. But better arrangements are not the same as accountability.

What I saw from inside the stadium still sits uneasy. A key franchisee official who was arrested in connection with the stampede was in the Diamond Box, right above the memorial seats. The chief minister's close aide, who was sacked for allegedly insisting on large-scale celebration of RCB's IPL victory, was in the AC lounge just behind the memorial seats. It is hard to look at that and call it closure. The empty seats in front were meant to honour the dead, but the living in power were still sitting comfortably behind them. That is the image that stays with you long after the match is over.

The stampede also changed the cricket boardroom. Veteran cricketer Venkatesh Prasad won the KSCA presidency in December, with new leadership taking charge after the tragedy. The previous KSCA dispensation was already under pressure, and the post-stampede fallout helped sweep the old order aside. So yes, the incident changed people at the top. What it did not change enough was the question of responsibility.

And then there is the politics of convenience. When the tragedy happened last June, MLAs stood in the Assembly and blamed each other. This March, in the Assembly, the same leaders came together for something else: free IPL passes. On March 26, MLAs demanded more tickets. On March 27, two tickets per MLA were announced for the opening match. By March 30, it became three tickets per MLA for IPL matches. The system moved from one ticket to three tickets in four days. From FIR to conviction, it has not moved in one year. The system worked very efficiently for free tickets but not for fixing responsibility.

RCB is not a small club. It is one of the IPL's biggest names and was recently valued at about $1.78 billion in a sale that underlined its huge commercial pull. That only makes the silence on accountability look worse. The show should go on, no doubt. Cricket must go on. RCB must go on and maybe win more cups. But where is the accountability that the 11 families deserved?

Memorial seats and silent prayers are not justice. Accountability in a court of law is justice. Do not ask families to swallow a life sentence of grief while the case drags on and the guilty remain unnamed. **DHNS**

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: APRIL 1976

Ninth Sharavathi power unit commissioned

Jogfalls, March 31
A rise in output of power by 89.1 mw is the Sharavathi Project's "Ugadi gift" to the State. Mr. S. Mukunda Rao, Chief Engineer (Elec. Const), said this was made possible by the commissioning today of the ninth unit of the project made by the Bharat Heavy Electricals, Bhopal. The total production of the project now was 80.1 mw. With the commissioning of the USSR generators to be erected at the power house at Linganamakki and at the Tail Race Power House at Gersoppa, an additional 295 mw of power will be generated.

25 YEARS AGO: APRIL 2001

Market thrown open to foreign consumer goods

New Delhi, March 31
Under the export-import (exim) policy for 2001-2002, the government today removed all Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) on imports from April 1 thereby opening up the Indian market to all types of foreign consumer goods and allowed free import of agricultural products like fruits and vegetables and a wide range of consumer goods including toys, TVs, garments and cars on payment of duty. At the same time, the exim policy proposes a series of measures to safeguard interests of domestic industries and agriculture.

OASIS | RADHIKA D SHYAM

The temple lamp

As a child I often heard my mother narrate this story - There was a temple atop a hill; one man would climb this hill every single day faithfully to light a lamp in the temple. And there was another man who would go up there a bit later, without fail, but to put off this lamp. And this practice of theirs continued for years.

However, one day there was a very bad storm and the former man mentioned did not think it worth risking his life and skipped his ritual. But the other person braved the terrible storm and reached the temple, only to see the lamp unlit. The absence of any oil in it proved that it had not been lit at all. The deity of the temple was very pleased with this person and granted him a boon. And I would wonder how a person who put off a lamp in the temple gained favour from God over the person who lit it. On asking, my mother would only smile and say, "Well, that's how the story goes". This set me thinking.

I found this tale rather unfair and without a proper moral. Isn't creating brightness a much better deed than causing darkness in a pious place like a temple? Now after many years of pondering, I have come to some conclusions. I tried to mentally justify the second person's act – perhaps his role was part of the temple's routine to prevent fire hazards, or save the oil used in the lamp or just to close the temple for the night.

But that beside the point, the one who was supposedly carrying out a virtuous act of devotion, chose comfort and safety over his routine worship. His devotion came across as conditional. And the one whose act of extinguishing the lamp appears as wrong and irreverent proves his commitment, discipline and unwavering responsibility.

For the deity, the key virtue was not what was done with the lamp but the spirit of duty, dedication and integrity and many other qualities like steadfastness, courage and sincerity. He was rewarded because he performed his task faithfully, regardless of circumstances; because he valued duty over convenience and remained true even in the face of adversity.

The lesson of the tale is that true devotion lies not in grand gestures or visibly pious actions or rituals, but in sincerity, perseverance and showing up, come what may.

Thunderstorms, cloudiness likely in most parts of country in April

IMD predicts above-normal night temperatures for the better part of the month

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

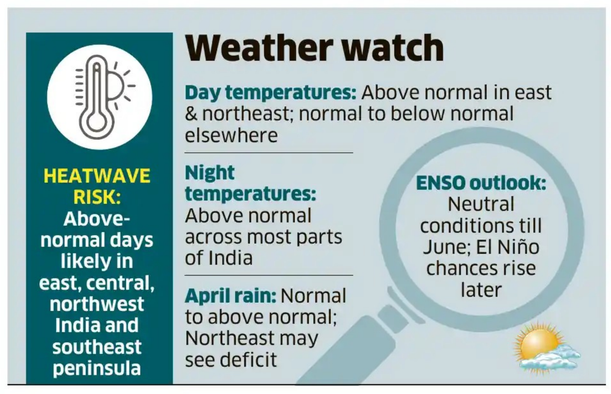
Most parts of India are likely to witness widespread thunderstorms and cloudiness in April, leading to above-normal night temperatures for the better part of the month, the India Meteorological Department said here on Tuesday.

In the first three months of summer between April and June, heatwaves are generally expected in most parts of the country, but this time the east coast, eastern, central and north-west India will face 3-5 additional heatwave days in addition to 2-4 such days these regions face each year.

South interior and coastal Karnataka, Kerala, and western TN are among the areas not expected to see any rise in the number of heatwave days.

The chances of El Nino-Southern Oscillation conditions remaining neutral till June is 82%, but there is 62% possibility of the dreaded weather conditions emerging after June and persist till the end of the year, Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, director general meteorology, IMD, said here.

The ENSO refers to an unusual warming of the Pacific and corresponding changes in tropical air pressure, influencing weather patterns across the globe. The cyclical weather phenomenon is generally associated with poor monsoon rainfall in India, but there are exceptions.


Weather watch
HEATWAVE RISK: Above-normal days likely in east, central, northwest India and southeast peninsula
Day temperatures: Above normal in east & northeast; normal to below normal elsewhere
Night temperatures: Above normal across most parts of India
April rain: Normal to above normal; Northeast may see deficit
ENSO outlook: Neutral conditions till June; El Niño chances rise later

Globally, scientists apprehend the emergence of a "super El Nino" in the latter part of the year and keep a close watch. A clearer picture is likely to emerge by May-end.

In April, Mohapatra said above normal minimum temperature was likely in most parts of the country, barring some areas in Maharashtra and Telangana.

Such weather conditions will prevail largely due to cloudiness expected in April, thanks to back-to-back Western Disturbances, extra-tropical storms that originate in the Mediterranean region.

This comes after a wet March that saw as many as eight Western Disturbances in the second half, causing rain almost all over the country and bringing down the temperature. There were six WDs between March 11 and 31, and two more are expected by April 10.

In April 2026, above-normal heatwave days are likely over many parts of the coastal areas of Odisha, Bengal, TN, Puducherry and Andhra Pradesh and isolated regions of Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Karnataka.

The IMD will come out with its first long-range forecast on the Indian summer monsoon by the third week of April.

PNG connections surge in March; over 3.1L added

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

In a bid to accelerate the expansion of the Piped Natural Gas (PNG) network amid disruptions in LPG supply caused by the West Asia conflict, India added more than 3.1 lakh new PNG connections in March, while another 2.7 lakh connections were sanctioned.

"In March, more than 3.1 lakh connections — including domestic, commercial, hostel, mess, canteen and others — were gasified. In addition, more than 2.7 lakh new connections have been sanctioned and are being gasified," the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said in a statement.

As of February-end, India had 1.64 crore domestic PNG connections, 48,568 commercial connections, and 21,512 industrial connections. The 3.1 lakh gasified connections refer to those applied for in earlier months, which were connected and supplied with gas in March. The additional 2.7 lakh connections represent new applications received during the month, for which gas supply is currently being initiated.

"The government is prioritising the PNG rollout to households, commercial establishments, and institutions. It has extended the national expansion drive until end-June and directed city gas distributors to fast-track connections, including those for hostels, community kitchens, and educational facilities," the statement said.

All refineries are operating at high capacity with adequate inventories, while stocks of petrol and diesel remain sufficient across the country. Fuel retail outlets are functioning normally, though instances of panic buying have been reported in some areas.

Centre appoints Chanchal Kumar as new I&B Secy

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Centre has carried out a top-level bureaucratic reshuffle, appointing senior IAS officer Chanchal Kumar as the new Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Kumar, a 1992-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Bihar cadre, is currently serving as Secretary in the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER).

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved Kumar's appointment as Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B), in place of Sanjay Jaju.

Jaju has been appointed as the new Secretary of the DoNER Ministry, according to an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).

In a major bureaucratic reshuffle, the government has appointed 8 new Secretaries across various ministries and more than 25 Additional Secretaries, along with 2 new Joint Secretaries in ministries including Information & Broadcasting, Rural Development, Tourism, Finance, and Education.

Sanjay Lohiya, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines has been appointed as Special Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance.

Sridhar Chiruvolu, Joint Secretary in the PMO, has been appointed as Additional Secretary at the same place.

Weapons seized from Maoist rebels upon their surrender are displayed in Dantewada in Chhattisgarh's Bastar division. A total of 35 Naxalites surrendered on Tuesday, just hours before the Centre's March 31 deadline to eliminate Left Wing Extremism ends. AFP

Govt, Oppn gear up for showdown on FCRA bill

Foreign funding legislation set for LS clearance today

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

AMENDMENT ROW

- Bill proposes takeover of assets built on foreign donations
- BJP accused of targeting church-run bodies
- Rijiju accuses Cong & CPM of rumour-mongering
- Minority organisations warn of harassment under new rules

The government and the Opposition are gearing up for a confrontation in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday over a contentious bill that would allow authorities to take over assets created using foreign funds. While the ruling BJP has accused its opponents of spreading "rumours", the Congress has vowed not to allow the proposed law to be "bulldozed" at any cost.

The Foreign Contribution (Amendment) Regulation Bill, 2026 — which proposes to take over any asset created using foreign funds if the licence of an entity permitted to collect such donations is cancelled, ceased or suspended — is scheduled for passage in Lok Sabha on Wednesday, a move that has put the BJP on the back foot in poll-bound Kerala, where it is wooing Christian voters.

The Congress has asked its MPs, who are engaged in election campaigns in states, to rush to Delhi to be present in the Lok Sabha when the bill is taken up. They have also been asked to join a protest at Parliament House before the House convenes.

Congress MP Sasikanth Senthil and DMK's T Sumathy have already submitted amendments to the bill, seeking to offset provisions that the Opposition claims are harsh and arbitrary.

'Won't allow to arm-twisting'

"The BJP is planning to bulldoze the FCRA amendments... in Parliament — at a time when the Congress and many Opposition parties are in the midst of an intense election season. This is a blatantly unconstitutional law, which will destroy NGOs and community organisations, especially those run by minority communities," Congress General Secretary KC Venugopal said.

"We will not allow the BJP to arm-twist honest philanthropic institutions through this draconian bill... we will not allow this to be passed under any circumstances."

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said the bill was introduced after adequate consultations, while accusing the Congress and the CPM of spreading "rumours" about the proposed legislation, which is aimed at curbing the activities of various religious organisations.

"The bill is intended only to regulate the flow of foreign funding into India and to prevent the misuse of such funds for illegal activities that could harm national security. Certain funds enter the country illegally and are used against the national interest," he told reporters.

Minority organisations, including church leadership, have raised concerns about provisions in the bill, claiming they could hamper functioning and lead to harassment. The minister maintained that it is not aimed at Christians or any other religious groups.

PM says India stable despite West Asia crisis; slams Cong as 'political vultures'

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that "despite the West Asia crisis affecting the entire world, India has managed to keep the situation under control due to its successful foreign policy."

Urging people to keep the "superfast express of development moving from panchayat to Parliament", he criticised Congress, alleging that its leaders were acting like "political vultures dividing the nation for political gains at a time when the country needs unity."

Addressing a gathering in the newly carved Vav-Tharad district in north Gujarat, the PM said, "India's greatest strength has always been that in difficult times, the country stands united. For some time now, we have been seeing several countries in the world grappling with war, unrest, and instability. The situation in West Asia is impacting the whole world. Energy needs... diesel, petrol, gas have become more strained globally. Even in such a crisis, India has managed to keep the situation under control. The reason behind this is the successful foreign policy as well as the strength of unity among its people.".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with operators and engineers during the inauguration of Kaynes Semicon's OSAT facility at Sanand, in Ahmedabad. PTI

In his Gujarat and Hindi speech, Modi attacked Opposition Congress, alleging that its leaders were "dividing the nation during a crisis."

"Unfortunately, even during a global crisis, Opposition parties are trying to reap political benefits. Today, when the country needs unity and solidarity, the Congress is engaged in spreading fear and rumors," Modi said.

The prime minister said that Congress was "busy inciting people, and like political vultures, they are waiting for difficulties to increase so that they can gain political advantage." He said every other country—big or small—has increased diesel and petrol prices, but "in India the burden is not being increased on the public. However, Congress is spreading rumours to create instability."

Modi also inaugurated and laid foundation stones for development works worth Rs 20,000 crore. The PM's visit comes ahead of the state preparing for the local body polls. Dates for polls for 15 municipal corporations, 84 municipalities, 34 district panchayats and 260 taluka panchayats are likely to be announced in the first week of April.

Semiconductor industry thriving

Earlier in the day, he inaugurated the Kaynes Technology semiconductor plant in Sanand, marking the commencement of production at the facility.

"India's semiconductor industry is thriving across different states, generating new opportunities for countless youngsters. We are now working on Semiconductor Mission 2.0 to add further scale to these efforts," the PM said.

He also spoke about efforts to secure "a resilient raw material supply chain, including India's membership in Pax Silica and the launch of the National Critical Minerals Mission."

LPG shortage felt across Mumbai region

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

A war-driven crisis in West Asia is being felt on the ground in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), where a shortage of LPG cylinders is affecting restaurants, street vendors and small businesses.

WAR SHOCKS

The region, home to more than 2.5 crore people and a large floating population, includes Mumbai and the neighbouring districts of Palghar, Thane and Raigad. Many suburbs house a large share of the working class.

"Only veg thali and non-veg thali are available," said staff at Sangeeti Hotel in the Vasai suburbs when resident Siddhi Dhamne tried to order chicken Manchurian. The restaurant said it was facing a shortage of cooking gas. "Gas nahi hai, karigar bhi nahi hai," a counter employee said.

With school examinations over, many migrant workers have begun returning to their villages in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand.

"We are not getting commercial cylinders," said Suresh, who works at the counter of a snacks and sweets shop in Kalyan. "Many shop owners using commercial LPG are badly affected. We use diesel bhattis, so we are not as affected, but getting supplies now requires extra effort because of long queues."

He said prices of popular snacks such as vada pav and samosa pav have risen by three to four rupees.

Street vendors are also struggling. "We use mini LPG cylinders, and demand is high," said Pritesh, who sells pani puri, ragda pattice and sev puri. "Kerosene is available only at ration shops."

Small stall owners say the shortage has cut business. "I am selling idlis and medu vadas only on weekends now," said Ramaiah Anna, who cycles to housing complexes to sell food.

In Bhiwandi, a powerloom and warehousing hub in Thane district, workers say there is a sharp shortage of 5-kg LPG cylinders, forcing many to queue around midnight for delivery.

First Iranian oil cargo since 2019 may be headed to India

NEW DELHI, PTI

India's first Iranian crude oil cargo since 2019 may be headed towards a port in Gujarat, according to ship tracking data.

Indian refiners have been looking to purchase a few cargoes of Iranian oil on water following the recent sanctions waiver by Washington.

"The Indo-Iranian oil trade has flickered back to life. Following the US administration's decision to grant a 30-day window for Iranian oil "on the water" due to regional conflict, the vessel Ping Shun is now en route to Vadinar (in Gujarat) with 600,000 barrels of crude. This is the first such delivery since May 2019 and comes at a critical time for Indian refiners facing tightening inventories," said Sumit Ritolia, Lead Research Analyst, Refining and Modelling at commodity market analytic firm Kpler.

While the identity of the buyer is unknown, Vadinar is home to a 20-million-tonne-a-year oil refinery of Russian oil giant Rosneft-backed Naraya Energy. It is also the landing point for crude oil that goes to hinterland refineries such as the Bina refinery of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

Oil tankers pass through the Strait of Hormuz. REUTERS FILE

India's oil ministry has so far maintained that techno-commercial feasibility will drive the decision on resuming buying Iranian crude.

Historically, India was a major buyer of Iranian crude, importing significant volumes of Iranian light and heavy grades due to strong refinery compatibility and favourable commercial terms.

Following sanctions tightening in 2018, imports ceased from May 2019, with volumes replaced by Middle Eastern, the US, and other grades. At peak, Iranian crude accounted for 11.5% of India's total imports.

India used to buy 5,18,000 barrels per day of Iranian oil in 2018, which slowed to 268,000 bpd between January and May 2019 when the US granted waivers to a few buyers. There have been no imports since.

"The Aframax Ping Shun (IMO 9231901) loaded with Iranian crude oil from Kharg Island in early March has emerged as the first vessel observed signalling a destination of Vadinar, India, since May 2019, following sanction reimposition on Iranian oil by the first Trump administration," Ritolia said.

The US earlier this month waived sanctions on the purchase of Iranian oil at sea for 30 days in its latest attempt to ease oil prices that have been driven up by the US-Israeli war on Iran.

Warring satraps give BJP headache in western UP

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

The tussle between two powerful BJP leaders — Sanjive Baliyan, a Jat, and Sangeet Som, a Thakur, from western Uttar Pradesh — escalated ahead of the next Assembly polls in the state, with one of them vowing to "exact" revenge for his "defeat" in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, which he attributed to the other.

Speaking at an event in Meerut on Sunday, Baliyan said he had not forgotten his humiliation and would exact revenge with interest.

"I am not someone who forgets humiliation... Remind me of the same if I forget," Baliyan told the gathering, which was attended by a large number of Jat leaders.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann was also among those present at the meeting.

Although Baliyan did not take names, it was clear that he was referring to Som, an influential Thakur leader from the region and his bitter rival.

The differences between Som and Baliyan had surfaced during the 2022 Assembly polls, when the former accused the latter of conspiring to defeat him from the Sardhana seat.

Som openly campaigned against Baliyan, who was the BJP nominee from the Muzaffarnagar LS seat in the 2024 General Elections. Baliyan lost the election to the rival SP candidate. Baliyan publicly held Som responsible for his defeat.

Senior state BJP leaders said the party leadership must 'intervene' to resolve the issue. "Their rivalry could hurt us badly in the western region," said a senior UP BJP leader.

BJP using Delhi, Maha model of roll tampering: TMC

KOLKATA, DHNS: The Trinamool Congress on Tuesday raised its pitch against the Election Commission and the BJP over alleged collusion to enrol people from Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana in the electoral rolls of West Bengal to ensure an edge for the saffron party in the Assembly elections.

TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee wrote to CEC Gyanesh Kumar, "raising serious alarm over the grave conspiracy being orchestrated against the democratic rights of the people of Bengal".

TMC supporters claimed to have caught some BJP workers when they allegedly came to the office of the state Chief Electoral Officer to submit a large number of Form 6, used to apply for inclusion in the electoral rolls. The police had to intervene to prevent the heated exchange between the TMC and BJP supporters from leading to violent clashes.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee speaks during a public meeting in support of Trinamool Congress candidates in Bishnupur on Tuesday. PTI

CEO: No software to add, delete voter names

State Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Kumar Agarwal said that anyone can submit as many documents as he or she wants. "There could be one lakh documents or one document submitted in a day by one person. I do not have information as the head of the office about this. There is a rule," he said, adding, "I have come to know that some Form 6s have been received by us".

He, however, also said that his office had no such software that could add or delete names from the electoral rolls.

The chief minister alleged that while over 60 lakh genuine voters of West Bengal remained in the "under adjudication" after the Special Intensive Revision of the electoral rolls in the state, and more than 200 lives have already been lost due to the flawed revision process, the EC was now suspiciously rushing to entertain fraudulent applications submitted in large numbers behind closed doors.

In her letter, Mamata stressed that the EC should immediately stop the "undemocratic exercise", strictly follow the SC's directions, and not add any fake voters after the final electoral roll was published on February 28.

TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee alleged that the BJP had perfected the dirty art of voter roll tampering. "They did the warm-up in Delhi and Maharashtra. Now they are playing the real match in Bengal," he wrote on X.

'Metro woman' Ashwini is Mumbai's first female municipal commissioner

MUMBAI, DHNS: Veteran bureaucrat Ashwini Bhide was on Tuesday appointed as the municipal commissioner of Mumbai—the first woman to occupy the top job in BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation, the richest civic body whose budget is bigger than several Indian states.

Ashwini Bhide

Ashwini (55), an additional chief secretary rank official, is known for her administrative acumen, decisive leadership style, and no-nonsense approach.

Incidentally, the Mumbai mayor is also a woman.

"The appointment of Ashwini marks a new era in the history of BMC. This honour is not just administrative but a matter of pride for the entire Mumbai. With Ashwini's extensive experience in the Metro project, Mumbai's development will undoubtedly reach new heights," said mayor Ritu Tawde.

"As a woman mayor and a woman commissioner, we together will realise the 'Smart and Safe Mumbai' of Mumbaikars' dreams—this is our firm belief," added Ritu.

The 1995-batch IAS officer's last appointment was additional chief secretary in the CM's office. She is widely recognised in Mumbai's administrative and infrastructure circles as the "Metro Woman of Mumbai" for her work in executing the metro network. Ashwini has also been given additional charge as the MD of the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation until further orders.

X seeks review of Centre's order blocking 12 accounts

NEW DELHI, DHNS: X Corp has told the Delhi High Court that it has asked the Centre to review its order to block 12 accounts, terming the action as disproportionate and not in compliance with the law.

It submitted before a bench of Justice Purushaindra Kumar Kaurav that the company has written a letter on March 19 to the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), saying the blocking order issued on March 18 does not meet the requirements laid down under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

The company clarified its position in an affidavit in response to a petition filed by Prateek Sharma, who challenged the validity of the decision of his X account operated as Dr Nimo Yadav.

It said the account was blocked on MeitY's directions over allegedly controversial and defamatory posts targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, including content portraying him as incompetent, which was also in poor taste.

X, however, maintained that the most of the content across the identified accounts did not fall within the grounds specified under Section 69A. It also claimed blocking entire accounts, rather than specific posts, was excessive and failed to meet the legal standard of adopting the "least intrusive measure".

It also contended that the affected account holders were not given an opportunity to be heard. It further claimed that the blocking order did not demonstrate that reasonable efforts were made to identify the individuals responsible for the content in question.

Maintaining that account-level blocking imposed an undue and permanent restriction on users' access to the platform in India without due process, the company felt restricting specific posts would have been an equally effective alternative.

Don't act as hard-bargaining employer, Supreme Court tells state

Says artificial classifications can't be used to deny regularisation benefits

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The state, as a model employer, cannot adopt artificial classifications to deny statutory benefits, the Supreme Court said. It emphasised that repackaging contractual engagements under different nomenclature, while denying regularisation, violates the equality mandate under Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta declared that Section 3(b) of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Special Provisions) Act, 2010 — insofar as it excluded employees appointed on an academic arrangement basis from consideration for regularisation despite fulfilment of conditions under Section 5 of the Act — is unconstitutional and violative of Article 14.

Expressing serious disapproval of the manner in which a group of contractual employees was denied regularisation in J&K, the bench said the state is expected to act as a model employer and not as an avaricious negotiator.

Where employees appointed on an "academic arrangement" basis are similarly situated to those engaged on an ad hoc, contractual, or consolidated basis in terms of duties, tenure, conditions of service, and mode of appointment, denial of equal treatment solely on the basis of nomenclature is impermissible under Article 14, the SC said.

J&K LEGISLATION

- SC says state must act as model employer
- Repackaging contracts under new labels violates equality mandate
- Strikes down Section 3(b) of J&K Civil Services Act
- Appellants were nurses & health workers
- SC orders regularisation within four weeks

The appellants, appointed to the posts of Junior Staff Nurse and Female Multipurpose Health Worker between 2011 and 2013, sought regularisation of their services. However, in September 2015, an advertisement was issued inviting applications for appointment on a regular basis to 1,088 posts, which included those occupied by the appellants.

They filed writ pleas seeking the benefit of regularisation under the 2010 Act. On May 4, 2018, a single judge, by a common judgment, quashed pleas and declined their claim for regularisation under the Act.

In 2010, the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Special Provisions) Act was enacted to provide for the regularisation of employees appointed on an ad hoc, contractual, or consolidated basis. However, appointments made under the 2009 order were expressly excluded from the categories eligible for regularisation under the Act.

Emphasising that any artificial or unreasonable classification strikes at the very core of the right to equality and violates the mandate of Article 14, the bench said the very object of the 2010 Act was to cure and regularise long-standing irregular appointments and extend legal protection to employees who had been rendering service for prolonged periods.

The Act, therefore, cannot be construed or applied in a manner that arbitrarily excludes a class of employees, such as the present appellants, who are discharging identical duties under comparable conditions, the SC held.

The court ordered the regularisation of the appellants within 4 weeks.

Antecedents key in police recruitment: SC

Court upholds rejection of candidate over criminal case

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has said that the assessment of a candidate's fitness and suitability for appointment lies primarily with the employer, as it upheld the rejection of a candidate seeking recruitment in the police force despite his acquittal in a case involving the alleged kidnapping and rape of a minor girl.

A bench of Justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah and N V Anjaria observed that courts are not expected to override the employer's judgment or substitute their own views in such matters.

"But for limited considerations, namely arbitrariness, unreasonableness, whimsicalness or a mala fide approach, the scope of judicial review on this issue is extremely limited," the bench said.

The court allowed an appeal against the Madhya Pradesh High Court's division bench judgment of July 20, 2023, which had set aside a single bench order declining to interfere with the rejection of the candidature of Rajkumar Yadav for the post of constable.

The bench said that, while recruiting or continuing a person in service, factors such as criminal antecedents, involvement in criminal activity, conduct amounting to moral turpitude, registration of a criminal case and the nature of acquittal are relevant considerations.

The employer, acting through a screening committee to examine such cases, has a fairly wide degree of discretion, though it must not act arbitrarily, the bench added.

"Every instance of moral turpitude has its own degree and may amount to conduct that is abhorrent or unacceptable, and could also constitute an offence under the law. In some cases, such conduct may not result in legally proven guilt and may go unpunished for various reasons," the bench said.

"Even then, it remains conduct against decency, morality and norms practised in civil society, inviting serious disqualification in a given situation," it added.

The court said that, in certain cases where the facts are stark, mere involvement in an alleged offence or an act involving moral turpitude may be sufficient to treat it as a negative factor while considering employment.

"Antecedents of a candidate play an important role in the decision-making process of the screening committee. This principle operates with greater rigour in recruitment to disciplined forces like the police," the bench said.

The court also noted that the expressions "honourable acquittal", "acquittal of blame" and "fully acquitted" are not recognised under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, or the Penal Code, 1860, and are terms used in judicial pronouncements.

In this case, the acquittal was based on the benefit of doubt on technical grounds. The bench held that the High Court had intruded into the domain of the screening committee and interfered with its validly exercised discretion.

No personal info collected from social media: MHA to Parl panel

NEW DELHI, PTI: The home ministry has told a parliamentary panel that security agencies use open-source intelligence from public sources, including social media, to gather information, emphasising that no privacy breach occurs as personal data isn't collected.

The ministry's submission was made to the Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology (2024-25), chaired by Lok Sabha member Nishikant Dubey, which tabled its report on Monday.

The committee had sought to know from the ministry how it dealt with the issue of privacy while scraping through the internet and through social media.

"Publicly available information on the internet and social media platforms is used for intelligence gathering. No private or personal information is gathered from social media. Hence, privacy is never violated," the ministry told the panel.

Scraping generally refers to the use of computer programmes, tools or software (called web scrapers) to automatically browse public web pages or social media posts; extract specific information (e.g., names, phone numbers, keywords, hashtags, trends, images); store or analyse that information for law enforcement or intelligence purposes, it said.

The ministry said the type of data that can be scraped by the authorised security agencies only from publicly available sources using open-source intelligence technique may include social media posts like public tweets, Facebook posts, YouTube videos, deepfakes or morphed media, fake news or misinformation, including viral instigating content spreading communal hatred.

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department Division, Haveri
This office letter No.033/PB/Tnd/5054-4059CMIDP-SCP-TSP-3054-8443/2025-26/5933/ Dated : 27-03-2026

E-Tender Notification

On 27-03-2026 through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal tender notification has been issued for the following Work Indent No. 35055, 35056, 35058, 35053, 35054, 35057 & 35059 Last date for submission of tender receipt is assigned on Dated : **06-04-2026** (upto 4:00 PM) and Work Indent No. 30608, 31234-2nd call, 34862, 34814, 35250, 33289, 33777, 34375, Sl.No.12, Sl.No. 13, 34538, SE1168, 34815 and 35146 Last date for submission of tender receipt is assigned on Dated : **16-04-2026** (upto 4:00 PM). For further additional information, any changes & queries visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. **Sd/- (N.N.Patil)**
Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Haveri
DIPR/Haveri/KSMCA/857/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT MANGALURU DIVISION MANGALURU
Ref :PWD:MD:TND:(36E): 2025-26:JE-1: Dated: 27.03.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION- 2nd CALL
(Karnataka Public E-Procurement Portal)

The Executive Engineer, PWD, Division. Mangaluru Inviting Tender under K.P.P Portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from eligible Tenderers in accordance with KTPP Act Indent No: 30116 (2nd Call) (Est.Amount Rs.400.00 Lakhs) **under the Head of Account 5054-04-337-0-01-154 District Roads and Improvements.** The Last date for reciept of tender: **15.04.2026 upto 17.00 Hours.**
Tenders for the above works are invited as per the Standard Tender Document – KW4. Further details such as value of work, amount put to tender, EMD etc., can be accessed on the KPP Portal at **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Further, for more details can contact O/o, Case Worker, Executive Engineer's Office, PWD, Mangaluru Division, Mangaluru during official working hours. Contact No: 0824-2423169.
DIPR/DK/KSMCA/1/25-26 dt.31.03.2026 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

CITY CORPORATION BELAGAVI
C.T.S. No. 4821/26, 4821/27, R.S. No. 1005, Subhasha Nagara, Belagavi, Ph. : 0831-2405304, E-mail : itstaff_ulb_belgaum@yahoo.com, Website : www.belgaumcity.mrc.gov.in
No. : C.C.B./P.W.D./E.E./D.M./TND/E-Proc-26/2025-26
Date : 31-03-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Commissioner, City Corporation Belagavi invites tenders in accordance with KTPP Act 1999 Rules 2000 through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for **23 Number of Works approved under Corporation Fund (Annual Maintenance of Roads, UGD, Fairs & Festival, Ganesh Festival etc.).**

1) Last date for Queries : 09-04-2026 upto 5.00 p.m., 2) Pre-Bid Meeting : 10-04-2026 at 11.00 a.m. in Office of the Commissioner, City Corporation Belagavi, 3) Last Date for Receipt of Tender : 16-04-2026 upto 4.00 p.m., 4) Date for Opening of Technical Bid : 18-04-2026 at 11.00 a.m. in Office of the Commissioner, City Corporation Belagavi, 5) Date for Opening of Financial Bid : 21-04-2026 at 11.00 a.m. in Office of the Commissioner, City Corporation Belagavi.

For more details visit online **Website : https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Any Addendum / Corrigendum will be published in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only.
Sd/- Commissioner, City Corporation Belagavi.
DIPR/Belagavi/2174/Manipal/2025-26

Govt. of Karnataka
Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society, Bengaluru
(An Organisation of Government of Karnataka)
No.8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Karnataka Marketing Federation Building, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560052.
No: KREIS/EE-1/Tender-28/2025-26 Date: 31.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Only)

The tenders have been invited for **Construction of MDRS Complex in Mallenahalli, Chikkamangalore District and Construction of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Residential School Complex at Gurupura, Mangalore, South Canara District in the jurisdiction of KREIS (Tender Indent No. 612 and 599)** through e-Portal vide website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on **31.03.2026.** The last date for receipt of tenders is **30.04.2026.** The details may be viewed at above website.
Note: Any changes in term tender notification will not be published in dailies. It will be published in e-Procurement portal only.
Sd/- Executive Engineer-1 KREIS
DIPR/CP/YC/6522/2025-26

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP Portal Only)
BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Agencies for the following works.
Office of The Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD (In Rs.)	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
North West-1	BWSSB/EE(NW-1)/ PB/6723/2025-26 Date: 26.03.2026 (Call-3)	**Rs. 26,47,639/-** / **Rs. 53,000/-**	08.04.2026 upto 5.00 PM	09.04.2026 after 5.15 PM

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North-West-1)
The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.
DIPR/CP/6524/NR/2025-26

Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation Ltd.
(Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
KMDC Bhavan, No.32/821, 2nd Floor, Subedhar Chatram Road, Opp. Sheshadripuram Police Station, Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru-560 020.
No.K.M.D.C/CR/P.N/2025-26/3282 **Date: 31.03.2026**

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation Ltd. invites e-tender from interested and qualified Project Management Consultancy (PMC) firms for the preparation of estimates, supervision of works, and preparation of work bills in connection with lift irrigation works under the Ganga Kalyana Yojana for the year 2025–26.
The tender details are as follows:

Sl. No.	TENDER NO	Program/Service Name	Estimated Amount (in lakhs)	Last date for submission of tender
1.	KMDCL/LIFT/CR-01 /2025-26	PROVIDING PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY (PMC) SERVICE FOR LIFT IRRIGATION WORKS UNDER GANGA KALYANA YOJANE IN **KALBURGI, YADAGIR & BELGAVI DISTRICTS.**	**15.00**	16.04.2026 at 5.30 pm.

For details, please visit the website address https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ for details, contact number: 080-22860999, for further information, contact the General Manager, Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation (KMDCL), Bangalore.
DIPR/CP/RO6515/AAPL/2025-26 **Sd/- Managing Director and Tender Inviting Authority**

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Joint Commissioner Zone-1 , Mayohal, Mayohal Premises, Bangalore- 560001.
No.BCCC/JC-1/TEND/12/ 2025-26 **Date: 31.03.2026**

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Only through Kppp Portal) Two Cover System

The Joint Commissioner (Zone-1), BCCC, Bangalore on behalf of the Commissioner, BCCC invites tenders from eligible Contractors firm registered in Bangalore central city corporation or equivalent registration with Labour Department or any State Government Organizations for the work as detailed in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for Service given in the table through kppp portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**).The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified as per RFP Documents the Instructions to Tenderers to qualify for award of the contract
1. Tender documents may be downloaded from the kppp portal of the Government of Karnataka from **02.04.2026**
2.Tenders must be submitted online through kppp portal on or before 16.00 pm hours on **16.04.2026** and the opening of tenders will be as per e procurement portal guidelines.
3. Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / EMD amount in Rs. / Period of Completion
1	Providing IT Co - Ordinator, Hardware Engineer and IT Engineers to Offices under the Bengaluru Central City Corporation. EMD **Rs.75000/-**, Period of Completion: **2 Year**

Note: 1. Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **08.04.2026 at 16.00Hrs noon**
2. Technical Bids will be opened on **18.04.2026 at 16.00 hrs.**
Sd/- Joint Commissioner zone-1, BCCC.

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation And Ground Water Development Division, Ballari
IFT No. EE/MI & GWDD/Bly/AE-2/2025-26/2485
Date : 26.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (KW-3)

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Division Ballari invited the tender for the work under **Head of Account 4702-Plan-LIS(CMIDP)** Siruguppa taluk 02 works in **Two Cover System. Minimum Estimated amount put to tender is Rs.59.02 lakhs Maximum Estimated amount put to tender is Rs.71.24 lakhs** the tenderers should download and submit the tenders from **date : 23.03.2026 to 04.04.2026 upto 17.30 hours. Date & Time of opening Technical Bid is on 06.04.2026 at 11.00 hours. Opening of Financial Bid is on 08.04.2026 at 11.00 hours**. Any other information should get by login the website **"KPPP"** website http:// kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
M.I. & G.W.D. Division, Ballari.
DIPR/Ballari/1198/KSMCA/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Senior Geologist, District Administration building, Koppal
Telephone No.: 08539-221285 E-mail: sgdmgkoppal@gmail.com
No: DMG/SG/Sand Tender/2025-26/8243 dated: 31.03.2026

Tender notification for the procurement of sand blocks identified in the 4th, 5th and 6th order stream/river characters of Koppal district through e-procurement

Notification for the quotation and allocation of sand blocks through electronic procurement No.: DMG/2025-26/SE0150, dated:31.03.2026, DMG/2025-26/SE0155, dated:31.03.2026, DMG/2025-26/SE0156, dated:31.03.2026, DMG/2025-26/SE0158, dated:31.03.2026

As per Government Notification No. CI-MMN/115/2024, Bengaluru, dated: 03.12.2024 in Budget 2024-25, Item 326, a new Sand Policy, 2020 has been approved to make sand available at fixed prices for public and government works. In order to ensure coordination among all government departments and eliminate confusion in implementing this policy and to provide sand to the public easily and at a reasonable price, the sand blocks identified in the 4th, 5th and 6th grade stream and river basins of Koppal district have been identified, the disposal of the sand blocks through tendering through e-procurement will be entrusted to the Department of Mines and Geology.

In this regard, as per the proceedings of the Koppal District Sand Monitoring Committee meetings were held on 18.02.2026 the 4 sand blocks in various taluks will be disposed of under the "where is, as is" concept as per the Karnataka Minor Mineral Concession Rules subject to all the documents, conditions and provisions laid down in the tender document as per Government Notification No. CI-MMN/115/2024, Bangalore dated 03.12.2024. This notification for the disposal of the said sand blocks through tender under electronic procurement (e-procurement) is invited under the Karnataka Public Procurement Transparency Act-2000. Interested public/bidders can submit their bids on Karnataka Government's e-procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/**

There are individual tender called for all 4 sand blocks, Intrested public/bidders can submit their bids with relevant documents.

The schedule for the bidding process for the disposal of the above sand blocks is as follows.

(1) Date of downloading of tender documents and other details : **02.04.2026 (2)** Date and venue of tender pre-bid meeting : **15.04.2026 Time: 11.00 AM** Office of the Senior Geologist Department of Mines and Geology, District Administration Building, Hospet Road, Koppal
(3) Last date for receipt of tender documents through e-procurement : **30.04.2026, Time: 5:30 PM (4)** Date of opening of tender documents through e-procurement : **02.05.2026, Time: 05.30 PM. For more information Contact Office Number 08539-221285.**

Sd/-Senior Geologist and Member Secretary, Department of Mines and Geology, Koppal, District Sand Monitoring Committee, Koppal
DIPR/Koppal/782/DeshpandePublicity/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, CHITRADURGA
No.EE:PWD:CTA:AE-1:Tender-72:2025-26 Dated:- 27.03.2026

SHOR TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from registered Contractors in KPWD for the following work through KPPP Portal as per standard tender documents rules.
No. Name of work:- Two cover System:- Head of Account 3054-04-337-1-10-200 MDR Maintenance:- (1) Special Maintenance road at Uppanayakanahalli cross to Aneehal vaddarahatti ch 0.00 to 11.82 Km in Selected reaches in Chitradurga Taluk (W.I. 35206) Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs:-100.00
One cover System:- Head of Account 3054-03-337-0-05-200 SH Maintenance:- (2) Road Safety work on SH 307 Kyadigere (NH-48) to Seebara road Ch from 0.00 to 18.67 on in Chitradurga Taluk (W.I.35235) Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs:-30.00
(3) SPECIAL REPAIRS TO KUMUTA KADAMADAGI (SH-48) CH 259.60 TO 275.00 KM IN SELECTED REACHES IN CHITRADURGA TALUK (W.I. 35246) Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs:-20.00
Sl No. 1 Tender dates are as mentioned below: Late Date & time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications 06-04-2026 Time: 17.30 Last Date & time for receipt of tenders 07-04-2026 Time: 16.00 Date & time for opening of Technical Bid 08-04-2026 Time: 16.15 Date & time for opening of Financial Bid 10-04-2026 Time: 11.00
Sl No. 2 & 3 Tender dates are as mentioned below: Late Date & time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications 06-04-2026 Time: 17.30 Last Date & time for receipt of tenders 07-04-2026 Time: 16.00 Date & time for opening of Financial Bid 08-04-2026 Time: 16.15 Further details can be obtained from this office and H.P. Company helpline Numbers 080-25501216 and 080-25501227.
DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/807/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD, Chitradurga.**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಚೇರಿ, ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಉಪ-ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ
ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ, ಕೆ. ಪಿ. ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ಎದುರಗಡೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ-580008.
Tel. No. 0836-2447923, E-Mail: dharwadacfsf@gmail.com
ಎ2/ಬಿಜಿಟಿ/ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್-1/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26-03-2026

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999 ರಡಿ ಇಲಾಖಾ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕರೆದು ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸ ಬೇಕಾಗಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ, ಕೆ.ಎಫ್.ಡಿ.ಎಫ್ 132, ನಗರ ಹಸರೀಕರಣ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ಸಸಿಗಳ ವಿತರಣೆ(ಆರ್.ಎಸ್.ಪಿ.ಡಿ) ರಸ್ತೆ ಬದಿ ನೆಡುತೋಪು (ಆರ್.ಎಸ್.ಪಿ) ಹಸಿರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಆರ್.ಕೆ.ವಿ.ವಾಯ್ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ 2026-27 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಸಿಗಳನ್ನು ಬೆಳೆಸುವುದು/ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ, ನೆಡುತೋಪು ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ/ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ, ಮಾನ್ಸೂನ್ ನೆಡುತೋಪು ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ, ನೇಡುತೋಪು ಮುಂಗಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ನರ್ಸರಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಕುರಿತು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ವಿವರಗಳು:

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ವಿವರ	ದಿನಾಂಕ.
1	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	**16-04-2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 04:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ**
2	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	**17-04-2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ**
3	ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆಗೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	**18-04-2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 05:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ**

ಉಳಿದ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು **http://KPPP.Karnataka.gov.in** ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಈ ಕಚೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು
ಸಹಿ/-
(ಮಹೇಶ ಹಿರೇಮಠ)
ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ,
ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಉಪ-ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.
ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ./ಧಾರವಾಡ/1407/2025-26/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿಟಿ

New Telangana law lets parents claim share of children's salary

Parents to receive 15% of child's monthly salary or Rs 10,000, whichever is less

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

In a significant move to protect the financial security of its elderly population, the Telangana Assembly has passed "The Telangana Employees Accountability and Monitoring of Parental Support Act, 2026".

The legislation establishes a legal framework that empowers dependent parents to claim a portion of their employed children's monthly salary directly when they are unable to sustain themselves.

At the core of the legislation is a salary apportionment mechanism. Dependent parents — either one or both — may submit a written application before a Designated Authority seeking a share of their employed child's monthly salary. Once approved, the apportioned amount will be paid directly into the parents' bank accounts every month by the relevant Appointing Authority. The amount sanctioned shall not exceed 15% of the employee's monthly gross salary or Rs 10,000, whichever is less.

To be eligible, parents must establish, on a prima facie basis, that they lack an adequate source of income to maintain their livelihood with dignity and that they genuinely require financial support from their child. Applications must also clearly state the parents' monthly income from all sources and the nature of support sought.

The State Government will designate the Collector and District Magistrate in each district as the Designated Authority responsible for adjudicating these applications. Upon receiving a claim, the authority must examine it, provide a fair hearing to both the applicant parent and the employee concerned, and dispose of the application within 60 days. If the claim is justified, the Appointing Authority will begin monthly payments from the month following the order.

Applications not maintainable under the Act may be rejected within the same 60-day period, with reasons recorded in writing and communicated to all parties.

To handle appeals and oversight, the government will constitute a Senior Citizens Commission within three months of the Act coming into force through a notification in the Official Gazette.

According to the bill, the Commission will have quasi-judicial powers equivalent to those of a Civil Court under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, while examining matters under the Act.

Malayalam filmmaker Ranjith arrested in sexual assault case

KOCHI, PTI: Noted Malayalam film director Ranjith was taken into custody on Tuesday evening in connection with an attempted sexual assault case, police said.

He was taken into custody following a complaint filed by a woman actor, who alleged that he attempted to sexually assault her on a film set, they added.

Ranjith was taken into custody from Idukki district, they said. According to the police, the actor has alleged that the director invited her to a caravan during the shooting of a film and attempted to sexually assault her.

The case against Rajnith was registered by Kochi City Police on Monday, and he is currently in police custody in Thodupuzha. He is likely to be handed over to the Kochi Police soon.

Ranjith

The woman actor's statement was recorded at the Women's Police Station on Monday.

After this, police proceeded with Ranjith's arrest. The registration of case and subsequent proceedings were carried out with utmost secrecy.

Ranjith had earlier faced allegations of sexual harassment following revelations in the Justice K Hema Committee report on harassment and abuse in the Malayalam film industry. In 2024, a case was registered against Ranjith after a Bengali actress filed a complaint with the Kochi City Police Commissioner.

Neighbours describe Vizag murder accused as calm, quiet

HYDERABAD, DHNS

For the residents of Keerthi Enclave-I, LV Nagar, in Vishakhapatnam's Gajuwaka, the brutal killing and dismemberment of a woman inside their apartment complex has come as a deeply unsettling shock.

The accused, Chintada Ravindra, a Petty Officer at INS Dega of the Indian Navy, allegedly murdered his girlfriend, Polipalli Mounika, inside his first-floor flat before chopping her body.

None of the neighbours had suspected Ravindra of being capable of such an act. Those who knew him described him as calm, quiet, and largely kept to himself, rarely engaging with others in the complex. He was known to have a passion for bikes and owned three expensive motorcycles. Neighbours recalled seeing him outside his flat only when he headed to the gym or left for work.

Ravindra's family had moved into the apartment only about a year ago, and residents were initially uncertain about his background. "We were all families here and were naturally a little cautious about letting flats to bachelors," said one neighbour. "At first we assumed he was a bachelor, but when we asked the flat owner, he told us Ravindra was married and that his wife would be joining him soon."

True to the owner's word, Ravindra's wife moved in shortly after. Within two months, however, she left for her parents' home as she was pregnant and nearing her delivery date. From then on, neighbours said, their interactions with him became rare. His wife delivered a baby girl a few days ago.

The incident occurred on a Sunday, when most residents were at home relaxing, yet no one noticed Mounika entering the flat. The flat owner had previously mentioned that Ravindra's sister, who lived in a college hostel, would occasionally visit him. "We assumed we saw this woman once or twice and thought it was his sister," said another resident.

The revelation that a murder and gruesome disposal of a body had taken place inside their complex left residents shaken. "We never imagined he was capable of something so heinous," another resident said.

Shiv Sena starts preparations for 2029 Lok Sabha elections

MUMBAI, DHNS: The Lok Sabha elections may be three years away, but the Shiv Sena, led by Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde—who is an ally of the BJP and part of the NDA—has already launched its preparations.

As per Shinde's directives, the party has announced chief coordinators for all 48 Lok Sabha constituencies in the state, becoming the first party in the state to launch preparations for the 2029 Lok Sabha polls.

The move comes days after Shinde called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi.

Among these, the responsibility for six Lok Sabha constituencies in Mumbai—Mumbai North, Mumbai North West, Mumbai North Central, Mumbai South Central, Mumbai North East, and Mumbai South—and the Thane Lok Sabha constituency has been entrusted to Shiv Sena Parliamentary Party leader and Kalyan MP Dr Shrikant Shinde.

On the other hand, Shinde's aide and Thane MP Naresh Mhaske has been appointed as the chief coordinator for the Bhiwandi and Kalyan Lok Sabha constituencies.

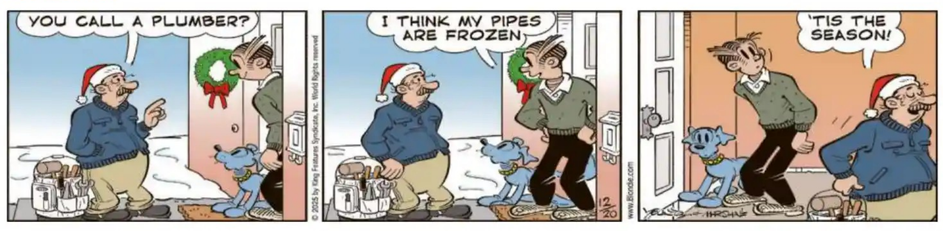
Along with Shinde, Minister of State for Home Yogesh Kadam, MLA Nilesh Rane, and former MP Rahul Shewale will be responsible for Mumbai's Lok Sabha constituencies.

Besides, the Shiv Sena also appointed divisional coordinators and co-coordinators for the polls.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie



Hagar The Horrible

ARE YOU READY FOR BED, HAGAR?
I'M MORE THAN READY!
I'M GOING TO FALL ASLEEP AS SOON AS MY HEAD HITS THE PILLOW AND I MAKE THIS HAM DISAPPEAR!

Beetle Bailey

WHY CAN'T YOU EVER SAY ANYTHING COMPLIMENTARY ABOUT ME?
BECAUSE ALL THAT YOU'RE GOOD AT IS GOOFING OFF!
GREG + MORT WALKER
THERE. WAS THAT REALLY SO HARD?

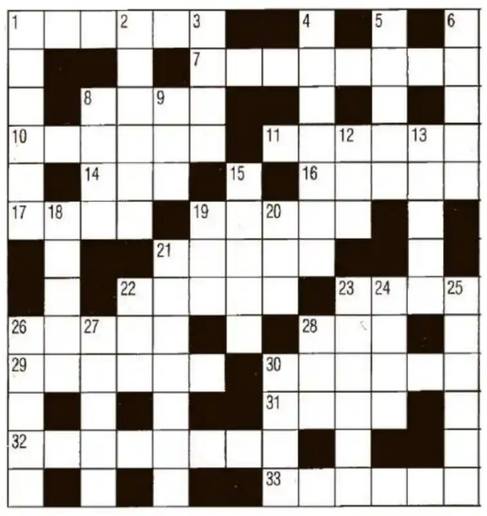
Peanuts

THIS IS MY REPORT ON BAKERIES...
A GIRL WENT INTO A BAKERY AND ASKED, "DO YOU SERVE BIG COOKIES IN HERE?"
"I DON'T KNOW," SAID THE BAKER... "HOW TALL ARE YOU?"
HA HA HA HA HA
WELL, BAKERS HAVE TO HAVE FUN, TOO, YOU KNOW, MA'AM!

Marvin

WE GO CAROLING TO SPREAD CHRISTMAS JOY, MARVIN
IT'D BE A LOT EASIER TO SPREAD CHRISTMAS JOY IF THEY'D GIVE ME MY PRESENTS FIRST

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12385



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 These people are a bad bet, sir (6)
7 Lengthy sojourn in the field (8)
8 Where eruptions may start to burst? (4)
10 Public relations, to me, may be just for now (3,3)
11 Nullifies horrendous ultimate chaos! (6)
14 Polo ground record? (3)
16 Such charges may be dropped (5)
17 After that, the National Front (4)
19 Started to live with a killer (5)
21 Material I mend, maybe (5)
22 Do well to become advanced (3,2)
23 Friendly with a woolly-headed member (4)
26 Half and half housing? (5)
28 A childish story? (3)
29 It's sad when a soldier's in the cart, perhaps (6)
30 Just the bird to attract an alien? (6)
31 But commonly reduced (4)
32 Thankful for fat mixed with gruel (8)
33 Fox, maybe, or a teddy (6)

DOWN
1 A vessel to keep cosy? (6)
2 Being foreign, he's not exactly a Briton (6)
3 Wherein the poor total is about a pound? (4)
4 Program item where Maud madly embraces an officer (7)
5 A bit of catastrophe increases keenness! (5)
6 A ship wrecked in beastly style (5)
8 He and ì30 Downî are aptly said to be ìapartî (4)
9 Registered name (3)
12 The end room? (3)
13 Three could put you out (5)
15 Singer in white, normally (5)
18 Hang around the hotel too much (5)
19 Elizabeth's gamble (3)
20 A marginal intoxicant? (3)
21 Girl wanted (7)
22 A short engagement (3)
23 Tree full of bats, potentially? (6)
24 Cleverly leading a seaman to a silly conclusion (4)
25 With this system, the police have a burden to shoulder (6)
26 The boards used in making gates (5)
27 She accepts backup just the same (5)
28 There's a fair place for it (3)
30 Foreigner held in a vault (4)

ACROSS
1 Playground item (6)
7 Ultimate (8)
8 Bombast (4)
10 To be precise (4,2)
11 Lying face upwards (6)
14 Congeal (3)
16 Quick (5)
17 Unmarried woman (4)
19 Tag (5)
21 Focal point (5)
22 Heathen (5)
23 Encounter (4)
26 Detests (5)
28 Large disorderly crowd (3)
29 Burning (6)
30 Car safety device (3,3)
31 Rodents (4)
32 African country (8)
33 Ruptures (6)

DOWN
1 Method (6)
2 Roofing tiles (6)
3 Moistens (4)
4 Guarantees (7)
5 Spring bulb (5)
6 Lose blood (5)
8 Shabby clothing (4)
9 Nothing (3)
12 Close friend (3)
13 Female relative (5)
15 Parrot type (5)
18 Perfect (5)
19 Register, record (3)
20 Bread roll (3)
21 Trend (7)
22 Dowel (3)
23 Building material (6)
24 Recedes (4)
25 Pantihose (6)
26 Eye colour (5)
27 Levy (5)
28 Girl's name (3)
30 Horse breed (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12384

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, A-mass 6, Sears 9, CO-MP-act 10, Dr-ur-y 11, Rough 12, Ro-D-in 13, Campion 15, Hip 17, Omit 18, Serena 19, Gents 20, Moored 22, Dent 24, Ayr 25, Trainee 26, Hear-t 27, St-air 28, Films 29, Lamp-O-on 30, Droll 31, Penny.
DOWN: 2, Mar-ram 3, Script 4, So(pp)y 5, Spoon 6, S-crib-es 7, Eton 8, R-e.g.-ain 12, Rowed 13, Comma 14, Minor 15, He-me-n 16, Paste 18, Start 19, General 21, Oyster 22, Di-Vi-ne 23, Newman 25, Traps 26, H-ill 28, F(L)op.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Gloat 6, Cello 9, Barrier 10, Delay 11, Round 12, Beats 13, Jocular 15, Bee 17, Owls 18, Divert 19, Doyen 20, Acumen 22, Alto 24, Hot 25, Boaters 26, Nonet 27, Sofas 28, Tutor 29, Billion 30, Yeast 31, Pests.
DOWN: 2, Lie low 3, Abacus 4, Tay 5, Order 6, Certain 7, Eros 8, Linger 12, Bacon 13, Jonah 14, Clout 15, Belle 16, Ethos 18, Depot 19, Deposit 21, Coyote 22, Attune 23, Try out 25, Belly 26, Nabs 28, Top.

◆SU-DO-KU-6868◆

		9	7	4			5	1
	5	8						
7				1			8	
3		1					4	
8								6
	2					9		3
	3			8				9
						5	6	
	8			2	6	7		

hard

SOLUTION TO 6867

4	5	6	2	3	7	8	9	1
1	8	2	9	5	6	7	3	4
3	7	9	4	1	8	5	6	2
5	1	3	8	2	9	4	7	6
7	6	8	3	4	5	2	1	9
9	2	4	7	6	1	3	8	5
8	9	5	1	7	2	6	4	3
2	4	7	6	9	3	1	5	8
6	3	1	5	8	4	9	2	7

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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							Triple Word Score	RACK 1
F4	S1	I1	Y4	I1	A1	B3		
								RACK 2
A1	E1	E1	L1	C3	R1	R1		
								RACK 3
A1	F4	N1	N1	N1	T1	I1	3rd Letter Triple	
								RACK 4
E1	E1	A1	N1	V4	S1	L1	Double Word Score	

PAR SCORE 120-130
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

E1	M3	O1	T1	E1	R1	S1	RACK 1 =	77
F4	E1	D2	E1	R1	A1	L1	RACK 2 =	83
B3	A1	R1	L1	E1	Y4		RACK 3 =	33
H4	O1	B3	L1	I1	K5	E1	RACK 4 =	98
							JUDD'S TOTAL	291

PAR SCORE 190-200

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

XYOPE

CNIRE

CRIWEK

HMISYM

Why would anyone resist our forces?
We'll control the world.
WHEN ANCIENT ITALIANS BUILT HUMAN-POWERED WARSHIPS, THEY CREATED A ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

"____-____" _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DOUSE FRUIT GAMBIT FINISH
Answer: He worked as a tailor until he decided the job wasn't — SUITED FOR HIM

HITORI-3322

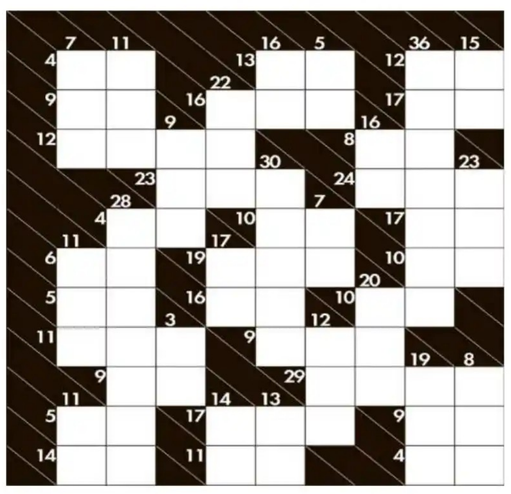
1	8	8	1	6	3	5	8
2	7	6	8	5	2	8	3
3	6	2	5	5	8	1	8
6	3	5	5	8	7	6	4
6	1	8	3	8	2	1	5
8	2	1	6	3	5	7	8
4	7	8	7	8	6	1	2
5	6	7	2	4	1	3	2

SOLUTION TO 3321

■	1	4	■	5	2	■	7
4	2	■	3	■	6	7	1
5	3	8	2	4	7	6	■
1	■	3	■	6	■	2	4
■	8	7	4	3	1	■	2
8	4	5	7	■	3	1	■
■	7	■	1	2	5	8	3
2	5	1	■	7	■	3	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3322



SOLUTION TO 3321

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3872

■							1	■
	■			3	6		■	
	3	■				■	7	
1			■		■			
		8		9	2		3	
3	7		■		■	5	6	
4		■				■	5	9
	6		9			■	■	
2					8			■

SOLUTION TO 3871

9	8	5	1	3	7	6	4	2
3	2	7	6	4	9	1	8	5
4	1	6	5	8	2	7	3	9
8	6	3	4	7	5	2	9	1
2	4	9	8	1	6	3	5	7
7	5	1	9	2	3	8	6	4
1	9	4	7	6	8	5	2	3
5	3	8	2	9	1	4	7	6
6	7	2	3	5	4	9	1	8

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Europe pushes back on US military operations over Iran war

France and Italy join Spain in refusing US use of airspace

PARIS/ROME, REUTERS

France and Italy have joined Spain in pushing back on US-Israeli military operations, sources said on Tuesday, as US President Donald Trump singled out Nato allies in Europe as unhelpful in the month-long war, highlighting divisions.

The decisions came against a backdrop of tensions between Washington and key partners over the war in Iran. Earlier this month, Trump called longtime Nato allies "cowards" over their lack of support against Iran. On Tuesday, he criticised countries that did not help in the US-Israeli strikes on Iran, including France, writing on Truth Social: "The country of France wouldn't let planes headed to Israel, loaded with military supplies, fly over French territory. France has been VERY UNHELPFUL with respect to the 'Butcher of Iran,' who has been successfully eliminated! The US will REMEMBER!!! President DJT."

A Western diplomat and two sources familiar with the matter told Reuters that France did not allow Israel to use its airspace to transport American weapons to be used in the war against Iran. Israeli planes were carrying the weapons, which is why they made the request, one of the sources said.

The sources said the refusal, which happened at the weekend, was the first time France had done this since the start of the conflict on February 28. Neither the French presidency nor the foreign ministry was immediately available for comment. Italy last week denied permission for US military aircraft to land at the Sigonella air base in Sicily before heading to West Asia, sources said on Tuesday. According to the Corriere della Sera daily, which first reported the news, "some US bombers" had been due to land at the base in eastern Sicily before flying on to West Asia.

The report did not specify when the aircraft were due to land but said permission was denied because the US had not requested clearance and Italy's military leadership had not been consulted.

Spain said on Monday that it had closed its airspace to US planes involved in attacks on Iran. Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has been among the most vocal critics of the US and Israeli strikes. Spain will only allow the use of its bases if it is for the "collective defence" of Nato allies, Spanish Defence Minister Margarita Robles said on Tuesday, clarifying that the denial of use of Spanish airspace for US planes involved in the conflict with Iran had been in place since the outset of the war on February 28.

Trump also singled out Britain on Tuesday as being unhelpful, just as Buckingham Palace confirmed King Charles and Queen Camilla will pay a state visit to the US in late April.

He wrote on Truth Social: "All of those countries that can't get jet fuel because of the Strait of Hormuz, like the United Kingdom, which refused to get involved in the decapitation of Iran, I have a suggestion for you: Number 1, buy from the US, we have plenty, and Number 2, build up some delayed courage, go to the Strait, and just TAKE IT."

The United States, France, Italy, Spain and Britain are all Nato members.

US Secretary of Defence Pete Hegseth speaks during a briefing on the US-Israeli conflict with Iran at the Pentagon in Washington DC on Tuesday. REUTERS

Iran has will to end war, but is seeking guarantees: Prez

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Tuesday that his country had the "necessary will" to end the ongoing war with Israel and the United States, but was seeking guarantees that the conflict would not be repeated, AFP reports from Tehran.

"We possess the necessary will to end this conflict, provided that essential conditions are met — especially the guarantees required to prevent the repetition of the aggression," Pezeshkian said in a phone conversation with the President of the European Council, according to a statement from his office, reiterating a key demand of Tehran. Responding to a 15-point US plan for ending the war last week, Iran issued a five-point counterproposal that also called for ending the "aggression" and establishing a mechanism guaranteeing that neither Israel nor the United States would return to war, Iranian media reported. "The solution to normalising the situation is the cessation of their aggressive attacks," Pezeshkian said on Tuesday.

China, Pakistan propose 5-point ceasefire plan

BEIJING, PTI: China and Pakistan on Tuesday put forward a five-point peace proposal to end the West Asia war, including a call for the safe passage of ships through the Strait of Hormuz.

The peace proposal was put forward after Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks on the Iran situation with visiting Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar.

Dar arrived here to brief Wang about his recent talks with the foreign ministers of Turkiye, Egypt and Saudi Arabia to promote talks between the US and Iran.

After Dar-Wang talks, the two countries put forward five proposals on restoring peace and stability in the Gulf region and West Asia, as well as safe passage through the Strait.

The proposals included the cessation of hostilities, initiation of peace talks, ensuring the safety of non-military targets and safety of navigation, and safeguarding the primacy of the UN Charter. The Strait of Hormuz, together with its adjacent waters, is an important global shipping route for goods and energy, a joint statement said.

"China and Pakistan call on the parties to protect the security of ships and crew members stranded in the Strait of Hormuz, allow the early and safe passage of civilian and commercial ships, and restore normal passage through the Strait as soon as possible," the joint statement added.

Trump open to ending Iran war without reopening Hormuz: WSJ

WASHINGTON, PTI: US President Donald Trump has told his aides that he is willing to end the military operation against Iran even if the Strait of Hormuz remains largely closed, leaving the campaign to reopen it for a later date, The Wall Street Journal reported, citing administration officials.

In recent days, Trump and his aides assessed that a mission to pry open the chokepoint would push the conflict beyond his timeline of four to six weeks, the daily said in a report. According to the report, Trump decided that the US should achieve its main goals of hobbling Iran's navy and its missile stocks and wind down current hostilities.

Japan deploys its first long-range missiles

TOKYO, AP/PTI: Japan's first long-range missile has been deployed at a southwestern army camp, officials said on Tuesday, as the new government pushes to bolster its offensive capabilities.

The upgraded Type-12 land-to-ship missiles, developed and produced by Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, became operational at Camp Kengun in Kumamoto prefecture.

"As Japan faces the most severe and complex security environment in the post-war era ... it is an extremely important capability to strengthen Japan's deterrence and responsiveness," Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi told reporters.

"It demonstrates Japan's firm determination and capability to defend itself."

The upgraded Type-12 missile has a range of about 1,000 kilometres, a significant extension from the 200-kilometre range of the original, which would allow it to reach mainland China.

The deployment of the long-range missile gives Japan a "standoff" capability, meaning it can strike enemy missile bases from afar, marking a break from the self-defence-only policy the country long followed under its pacifist constitution.

Israel passes death penalty law for Palestinian convicts

Measure targeting nationalistic offences likely to face legal challenges

JERUSALEM, AP/PTI

Israel's parliament on Monday passed a law approving the death penalty for Palestinians convicted of murdering Israelis, a measure that has been harshly condemned by the international community and rights groups as discriminatory and inhumane.

The passage of the bill marked the culmination of a years-long drive by the far right to escalate punishment for Palestinians convicted of nationalistic offences against Israelis. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu came to the Knesset to vote for the bill in person.

The law makes the death penalty — by hanging — the default punishment for West Bank Palestinians convicted of nationalistic killings. It also gives Israeli courts the option of imposing the death penalty on Israeli citizens convicted on similar charges — language that legal experts say effectively confines those who can be sentenced to death to Palestinian citizens of Israel and excludes Jewish citizens. It will not apply retroactively to any prisoners Israel currently holds, including the Hamas-led militants who attacked the country on October 7, 2023, triggering the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

After the final 62-48 vote in favour, lawmakers erupted into cheers and stood up in jubilation. Netanyahu, who remained in his seat, did not immediately react or speak.

Israel's firebrand Minister of National Security, Itamar Ben-Gvir, who spearheaded the push for the legislation, brandished a bottle in celebration. Far-right lawmaker Limor Son Har-Melech, one of the bill's original sponsors whose first husband was killed in a Palestinian militant attack in the West Bank, smiled through tears. The legislation, which says it will take effect in 30 days, is certain to face legal challenges that may stall its implementation.

Minutes after the bill passed, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel said it had already petitioned Israel's highest court to challenge the law. It called the legislation "discriminatory by design" and said the parliament had enacted it "without legal authority" over West Bank Palestinians.

Amichai Cohen, a senior fellow at the Israel Democracy Institute's Centre for Democratic Values and Institutions, said that under international law, Israel's parliament should not be legislating in the West Bank.

Palestinians take part in a protest against the Israeli death penalty law for Palestinians convicted of lethal attacks, in Ramallah, West Bank, on Tuesday. REUTERS

Indian business delegation visits China after five-year gap

BEIJING, PTI

An Indian chambers of commerce delegation is currently visiting China to interact with counterparts there, marking the first such visit after a five-year freeze in relations.

A delegation of the Punjab, Haryana, Delhi Chambers of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) is on a visit to Shanghai and China's Jiangsu province, one of the most industrialised areas of the country, from Mar 29 to April 4.

This is the first Indian trade delegation to visit China after the two countries normalised bilateral relations last year, following more than five years of hiatus after the military standoff in eastern Ladakh in 2020. Relations have been on the course of normalisation after meetings between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2024 and 2025 on the sidelines of the BRICS and SCO summits.

The Indian Consul General in Shanghai, Pratik Mathur, on Tuesday hosted a business round table between the PHDCCI delegation and leading companies and financial institutions from eastern China to explore opportunities for collaboration with Indian businesses.

Welcoming the delegation, Mathur noted that India continues to emerge as the world's fastest-growing major economy with one of the youngest demographics globally, creating immense opportunities for international partnerships and investments, a press release by the consulate said.

During his address, Mathur emphasised India's expanding prospects in several sunrise sectors, including new and renewable energy, electric vehicles (EVs), connectivity and infrastructure development, as well as information technology industries.

These sectors, he said, offer significant potential for collaboration between Indian and global companies seeking sustainable growth.

The visit of the PHDCCI delegation was designed to build stronger connections between Indian businesses and industry counterparts in eastern China, particularly in Shanghai, the country's commercial hub, as well as the rapidly growing provinces of Zhejiang and Jiangsu, the press release said.

PHILANTHROPY SCRUTINY

Epstein documents cloud Buffett's Gates Foundation donations

REUTERS

Warren Buffett on Tuesday declined to commit to continuing his annual multibillion-dollar donations to the Gates Foundation, following the recent release of materials about late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein's relationship with the nonprofit and its co-founder Bill Gates.

In his first televised interview since stepping down in January as Berkshire Hathaway's chief executive, Buffett told CNBC he has not spoken with Gates since the US Department of Justice released documents in February showing that Gates and Epstein met repeatedly to discuss philanthropy following Epstein's 2008 guilty plea to Florida prostitution charges. Buffett, 95, who remains Berkshire's chairman, began giving away his fortune in 2006 and has donated more than $47 billion of the conglomerate's stock to the Gates Foundation.

He has donated Berkshire stock to the foundation and four family charities annually around mid-year, with additional donations to the family charities in November. Last year's Gates Foundation donation totalled more than $4.5 billion.

"I'll wait and see what unfolds," Buffett said when asked if the Gates Foundation donations will continue. "I'm learning things I didn't know."

Hindus in Pak protest against abduction, forced conversion

KARACHI, PTI

Members of Pakistan's minority Hindu community staged a sit-in protest here to highlight the rising cases of abduction and forced conversion of Hindu girls to Islam before marriage to older Muslim men.

The protesters came together under the banner of Pakistan Darawar Ittehad (PDI) outside the Sindh Legislative Assembly on Monday. They attempted to highlight the ongoing injustices, oppression, and discrimination faced by the Sindhi Hindu minority community, according to the PDI Chairman, Shiva Kachhi.

Highlighting a fresh case, Kachhi said on Tuesday that a minor girl had been abducted from the city's Landhi area and forcibly married off after conversion. "We are still trying to get a proper FIR registered with the Landhi police to move the case forward," he added. "But the girl is missing, and her family is distraught," Kachhi said.

Highlighting another case that took place a week ago near Mirpurkhas, Kachhi said, another young Hindu girl had been abducted and forcibly converted and married off.

"The purpose of this protest sit-in was to highlight the insecurity and unsafe conditions for our women, especially in the rural Sindh areas," he said.

According to eyewitnesses, hundreds of Hindus across Sindh came to take part in the protest, which ended peacefully after the leaders handed over a list of demands to the Sindh Assembly speaker.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Russian oil tanker Anatoly Kolodkin arrives at the oil terminal in Matanzas, Cuba, on Tuesday. AFP

Russian oil tanker docks in Cuba despite US energy blockade

▶ The Russian vessel Anatoly Kolodkin docked on Tuesday at the Cuban port of Matanzas laden with 730,000 barrels of oil, marking the first time in three months that an oil tanker has reached the island, AP/PTI reports from Havana.

The administration of US President Donald Trump had allowed the shipment to proceed despite its ongoing energy blockade. Cubans, including Energy and Mines Minister Vicente de la O Levy, cheered the ship's arrival. A shortage of petroleum has exacerbated a deep economic crisis that has left the population mired in long blackouts and facing a severe shortage of food and medicine. "Our gratitude to the Government and People of Russia for all the support we are receiving. A valuable shipment that arrives amid the complex energy situation we are facing," de la O Levy wrote on X. Cuba produces barely 40 per cent of its required fuel and relies on imports to sustain its energy grid. Experts say the anticipated shipment could produce about 180,000 barrels of diesel, enough to meet Cuba's daily demand for nine or 10 days.

Indian-origin man shot dead

▶ A man known to be of Indian origin has been killed in Canada's Surrey in a shooting incident allegedly related to organised crime, PTI reports from Ottawa.

The shooting was reported from a townhouse complex in Surrey's Sullivan Heights on Saturday night, in which a man was shot dead, Global News reported. The Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT) said in an update on Monday that the victim has been identified as 27-year-old Jasman Sekhon, CTV News reported. "Sekhon had previous interactions with the police and was believed to be involved in the drug trade. Early indications suggest this was a targeted incident related to organised crime," the report said, quoting the IHIT statement. According to witnesses, Sekhon was first chased by a dark SUV, after which two men stepped out and started shooting at him, the report said.

The Nasa Artemis II SLS (Space Launch System) rocket with the Orion spacecraft is seen at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral on Tuesday. AP/PTI

Moon mission countdown begins

▶ Nasa began the countdown on Monday for humanity's first launch to the moon in 53 years, AP/PTI reports from Cape Canaveral (Florida).

The 32-storey Space Launch System rocket is poised to blast off on Wednesday evening with four astronauts. After a day in orbit around Earth, their Orion capsule will propel them to the moon and back. There are no stops, just a quick U-turn around the moon. The nearly 10-day flight will end with a splashdown in the Pacific. Managers said the rocket is doing well following the latest round of repairs. Forecasters said the weather should cooperate. Nasa's Artemis II mission was expected to launch in February but was grounded by hydrogen fuel leaks. The leaks were fixed, but then a helium pressurisation line became clogged, forcing a return to the hangar late last month.

70 killed in Haiti gang attack

▶ At least 70 people were killed in "brutal and coordinated" attacks on a town in central Haiti over the weekend, a UN official said on Tuesday, giving the most reliable death toll to date, AFP reports from the United Nations.

"This blind violence is a further reminder of the urgent need for increased support for Haiti against the scourge of gangs and the networks that support them," Carlos Ruiz Massieu, head of the UN office in Haiti, wrote on X. The attack late on Saturday into Sunday happened in Petite Rivière de l'Artibonite, a town in central Haiti, the poorest country in the Americas. Members of the Gran Grif gang burned houses and left multiple people dead, local rights activist Bertide Horace said, adding that more attacks also occurred on Monday.

Actress Carey Mulligan poses with her Commander of the Order of the British Empire medal at the Windsor Castle in London on Tuesday. AFP

Iran war halts India's coffee exports to West Asia

Container prices have more than doubled in last month

MAHESH KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

India's coffee exports to West Asia have come to a grinding halt, following disruptions in the global logistics network caused by the war in Iran. Also, international freight rates have surged by 50-60% over the past month, significantly increasing costs for exporters.

In several cases, container prices have more than doubled to around $3,200, compared to about $1,500 before the conflict began. Some shipments have reportedly faced costs as high as $4,500 per container.

As a result, coffee exports were adversely impacted in March. Despite the availability of the new crop, India's total coffee exports recorded only a modest growth of 3%, just crossing the 4 lakh metric tonne-mark for the fiscal year ending March 2026. However, in value terms, exporters saw a stronger performance, with earnings rising 17.7% to $2.10 billion (Rs 18,601 crore).

In comparison, during the previous fiscal year ending March 2025, India exported 3.88 lakh metric tonnes of coffee valued at $1.82 billion (Rs 15,422 crore), according to data from the Coffee Board of India.

"West Asia accounts for about 25% of India's total coffee exports, and its share has been steadily increasing in recent years. After the introduction of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), Indian exporters began exploring alternative markets, with West Asia emerging as a key destination. However, the ongoing war has once again created major challenges," said Ramesh Rajah, President of the Coffee Exporters Association of India.

The EUDR requires that coffee traded with the EU be deforestation-free, legally produced, and traceable to specific geolocation coordinates of farm plots.

Meanwhile, coffee growers in Karnataka are holding back their produce due to a decline in prices during the fourth quarter of the fiscal. Prices have dropped by nearly 20% in Q4, compared to the earlier three quarters.

Since the implementation of the EUDR norms, Indian exporters have actively developed new markets in West Asia and expanded as far as Algeria in North Africa, Rajah noted.

"The situation in West Asia is a fresh setback, especially as we were already facing difficulties in Europe, particularly in Italy and Germany. Italy has been sourcing cheaper coffee from Uganda. We have also explored markets in the East, such as Japan, South Korea, and Australia. However, Vietnam remains a strong competitor in these regions, and it will take time to establish a foothold for Indian Robusta," he added.

The Coffee Exporters Association has approached the Ministry of Commerce through the Coffee Board, seeking intervention to address the current challenges. "We are yet to receive a response," Rajah said.

At present, several consignments shipped before the outbreak of the Iran conflict are stranded at ports across West Asia, with importers yet to take delivery.

New changes: Banking to Utilities

Major regulatory changes across tax, banking, infrastructure, and local levies come into effect from **April 1**

INCOME TAX

New Act
- **Income Tax Act, 2025 replaces 1961 Act**
- **The new Act takes effect from April 1**

HRA
- Stricter HRA rules; **PAN** mandatory
- Employees must submit **landlord's** PAN and rent payment proof to claim House Rent Allowance

HRA in metros
- Eight cities now qualify for **50%** exemption
- **Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune** and **Ahmedabad** added to the metro list alongside **Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai**

Allowances
- Children's allowances hiked **30×**
- Education allowance rises from Rs 100 to **Rs 3,000**/month per child; hostel allowance from Rs 300 to **Rs 9,000**/month.

Perquisites
- Company car tax values revised
- Cars ≤1.6L: **Rs 8,000**/month. Cars >1.6L: **Rs 10,000**/month. Driver benefit: **Rs 3,000**/month

BANKING & CREDIT CARDS

ATMs
- UPI ATM withdrawals count toward monthly free limit
- HDFC, Bandhan Bank & PNB revise rules.
- Post-limit fee: **Rs 23 + taxes** per transaction at HDFC. PNB cuts daily withdrawal cap to **Rs 50,000** for select cards

PAN
- Aadhaar-only PAN applications discontinued
- Use **Form 93** (individuals), **94** (companies), **95** (foreign individuals), **96** (foreign entities). PAN mandatory for cash deposits ≥**Rs 10L**, vehicle purchases >**Rs 5L**, property >**Rs 20L**

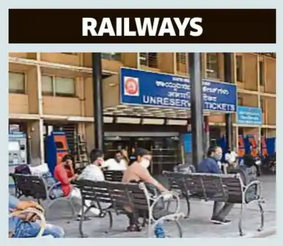
Credit cards
- High-value card spends reported to tax department
- Spends above **Rs 10L** (non-cash) or **Rs 1L** (cash) will be reported. Statements accepted as address proof. PAN mandatory for all new applications

Profession tax
- Full-year payers exempt from filing returns
- **Karnataka** amends the 1976 Professions Tax Act – those who paid full tax or are exempt need not furnish annual returns

EXCISE

Liquor
- New AIB-based excise duty structure
- Prices of **high-alcohol** beverages may change as the Karnataka government shifts to an Alcohol-in-Beverage (AIB) method for excise duty calculation

RAILWAYS



Railways
- **Zero refund** if ticket cancelled within 8 hrs of departure
- Indian Railways tightens the cancellation window from the earlier **4-hour cut-off** to **8 hours** before departure.

Tolls – State
- **62** toll plazas across **Karnataka** see **3–6% hike**
- Revised toll rates take effect at booths statewide from **April 1**

BENGALURU TOLLS

Mysuru highway
- Car toll rises to **Rs 355** (one-way)
- **3%** hike on access-controlled highway. Minibuses/LCVs: **Rs 555** to **Rs 565**. Heavier vehicles also increased

Airport – Sadahalli

- Cars steady at **Rs 120**; LCVs up to **Rs 190**
- LCV category rises by **Rs 5**. Oversized vehicles see a steeper hike

STRR

- Satellite Town Ring Road toll up **5–6%**
- Car toll on STRR hiked as part of the statewide toll revision

IndiGo appoints IATA chief William Walsh as new CEO

William Walsh

NEW DELHI, DHNS: India's largest airline IndiGo on Tuesday appointed William Walsh, the Director General of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), as its new CEO, subject to regulatory approvals, three weeks after the resignation of Pieter Elbers.

The decision was taken by the Board of InterGlobe Aviation Limited, which runs IndiGo, and Walsh is expected to "join no later than" August 3.

Walsh, whose term in IATA is coming to end on July 31, started as a pilot, COO and then CEO of Irish flag career Aer Lingus (2000-2005), and later moved to British Airways as CEO (2005-2011), and then as CEO of IAG (2011-2020), before heading to IATA.

"The airline has a strong foundation, a compelling vision, and an exceptional reputation. What stands out the most to me are its people, their passion, professionalism, and commitment. The aviation landscape is evolving rapidly, and IndiGo is extremely well-positioned to be at the forefront of this change," Walsh said.

An IndiGo statement said that "in his new role, Walsh will be responsible for the overall management and strategic direction of the airline, with a focus on transformational initiatives to strengthen the operational performance, advance the company's network and commercial strategy, while enhancing customer experience".

He will work closely with the Board and leadership team to rightfully position IndiGo as it scales up to the next phase of growth, it said.

Walsh's entry into IndiGo comes three months after the airline witnessed one of its worst crises — cancellation of 2,507 flights and delays of 1,852 flights between December 3 and 5, inconveniencing thousands of passengers, since it could not assign adequate crew to operate services owing to revised Flight Duty Time Limitation, which allowed enhanced rest time for pilots.

New DGCA chief

Meanwhile, the head of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, has been replaced. The Centre on Wednesday appointed Vir Vikram Yadav, a 1996-batch IAS officer of the Odisha cadre, as the new Director General of the DGCA. He replaces Faiz Ahmed Kidwai.

Govt rolls out reforms to boost e-commerce exports

Rs 10 lakh value cap on courier exports consignment removed

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Centre on Tuesday announced operationalisation of a set of comprehensive reforms effective from April 1 to strengthen and streamline e-commerce exports and courier-based imports.

The reform measures include removal of the Rs 10 lakh value cap per consignment on courier exports, a streamlined framework for handling returned and rejected parcels, and a legally-backed Return to Origin (RTO) mechanism for uncleared shipments.

According to the Union Finance Ministry, these reform measures would enhance ease of doing business, reduce logistics inefficiencies and strengthen India's global export competitiveness, particularly for MSMEs, artisans and startups.

"This measure is expected to significantly boost exports, especially for e-commerce exporters, by allowing greater flexibility in shipment value and enabling seamless exports through the courier mode, eliminating the need to divert such shipments to conventional air or sea cargo solely due to value restrictions," the ministry said in a statement.

The announcement in this regard was made by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in this year's Union Budget.

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has carried out amendments and changes in the relevant regulations to ensure smooth operationalisation of the reform measures impacting e-commerce exports.

The regulations, which have been amended, include the Courier Imports and Exports (Electronic Declaration and Processing) Regulations 2010, and Courier Imports and Exports (Clearance) Regulations, 1998. The CBIC has also issued circulars explaining the amendments and detailing the operational modalities.

In order to address congestion and delays in disposal of uncleared or unclaimed imported goods at international courier terminals, CBIC has introduced an RTO facility, under which goods that remain uncleared or unclaimed for more than 15 days and are not prohibited, restricted or under enforcement hold may be returned to the origin, following a simplified procedure. This is expected to ease congestion at courier terminals and improve logistics efficiency.

CBIC has also simplified the procedure for re-import of returned or rejected goods, including those relating to e-commerce exports. A risk-based approach has been adopted in place of consignment-wise verification, and necessary amendments have been carried out in the relevant notification.

In addition, a dedicated return module has been developed in the express cargo clearance system to facilitate smooth processing of such returns. "These reforms are supported by system-based enhancements and process simplifications aimed at improving the overall efficiency of courier-based trade," the ministry said.

The measures are expected to reduce dwell time, lower transaction costs and provide significant relief to exporters, logistics operators and other stakeholders involved in international courier trade, especially e-commerce, it added.

Oracle begins global layoffs; 30k employees likely to be fired

BENGALURU, DHNS: Oracle has begun global layoffs, including employees from India. On Tuesday, many employees started receiving notifications and several of those affected across various teams took to Reddit, TheLayoff.com and Blind to share their experiences.

According to reports, Oracle will lay off at least 30,000 employees of the total 1,62,000. "Got word that multiple people in sales and support have been impacted from an Oracle Communications GBU perspective. No word on consulting yet, but more to come throughout the quarter unfortunately," an anonymous user posted on TheLayoff.com.

According to PTI, Oracle has fired around 12,000 employees in India. The company employs about 28,000 people in India.

DH sent an email to Oracle regarding the layoffs, but the company declined to comment.

Severance package

Oracle has reportedly mentioned in its layoff notification to employees that after signing their termination paperwork, they will be eligible to receive a severance package subject to the terms and conditions of the severance plan.

Another user on Reddit posted, "Bloodbath happened today in India. Everyone who got laid off got a mail around 6 am without a 1-1 call with HR or managers."

A user on Reddit shared an email from Oracle that read, "Owing to certain organizational changes that are taking place in the company and after careful consideration of our current business needs, a decision has been taken to streamline the operations and as a result unfortunately the position you currently hold has become redundant"

"We want to assure you that this decision has been taken after thoughtful deliberation and has become inevitable in light of the need to restructure the business," the email added.

Last month, reports suggested that Oracle would be firing 20,000-30,000 employees to fund massive investments in AI data centres and cloud infrastructure.

India's 5G subscriber base to cross 1 bn by 2031: Report

NEW DELHI, DHNS: India's monthly 5G data traffic grew by 70% year-on-year to 12.9 exabytes (EB) in 2025, contributing nearly 47% to overall mobile broadband traffic during the year, as per the annual Mobile Broadband Index (MBiT) report by Nokia on Tuesday.

The average monthly mobile data consumption per user rose to over 31 GB in 2025, reflecting an 18% CAGR over the past five years.

This surge has been driven by the rapid expansion of enhanced Mobile Broadband (eMBB) and increasing demand for data-heavy applications such as AI-based services, 4K video streaming, and cloud gaming, Nokia said in the 13th edition of the report.

Overall data traffic crossed 27 EB per month in 2025, reflecting sustained growth driven by expanding 5G coverage and the growing availability of affordable 5G smartphones, it said.

An EB refers to 1 billion GB.

According to the report, India's 5G subscriber base is expected to cross the 1 billion-mark by 2031. 5G services were launched in India in October 2022. In just over three years of roll-out, India has emerged as the world's second-largest 5G user, with the number of subscribers crossing 40 crore.

Bengaluru-based voice-first agentic AI startup Gnani.ai raises $10 million in Series-B round

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru-based Gnani.ai on Tuesday announced that it has raised $10 million in Series-B, led by impact-focused fund manager Aavishkaar Capital.

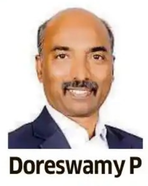
The round also saw participation from existing investor Info Edge Ventures. This is the first close of this fund raise as part of a larger round. This capital will accelerate the voice-first agentic AI startup's global expansion, advance its agentic AI capabilities, expand multilingual and industry-specific solutions, and strengthen its engineering and product talent base.

Founded in 2016 by Ganesh Gopalan and Ananth Nagaraj, Gnani.ai has built the country's leading voice AI platform — processing over 30 million voice interactions daily in over 12 languages, for more than 200 enterprise customers, including Fortune 500 companies.

Gopalan and Nagaraj said the investment will help them deepen generative AI capabilities and accelerate the platform's global expansion.

Gnani.ai recently launched Inya VoiceOS, the country's first 5-billion-parameter voice-to-voice sovereign foundational AI model, at the AI Impact Summit 2026.

Excelsoft appoints new CEO


Doreswamy P

BENGALURU, DHNS: Excelsoft Technologies Limited, a provider of technology-driven learning solutions, has appointed Doreswamy P as its Chief Executive Officer, with immediate effect following the Board's approval. Doreswamy P has over 25 years of leadership experience spanning technology, services, and financial management.

A chartered accountant by qualification, Doreswamy has held senior leadership roles at various organisations including ISS, Quess Corp, SMS, and KPIT, where he contributed to business growth, operational excellence, and strategic transformation. He was also the Co-Founder and former CEO of CredoPay Technology Services Private Limited.

Magnum Ice Cream buys 61.9% stake in Kwality Wall's

NEW DELHI, PTI: Magnum Ice Cream Netherlands has completed the acquisition of a 61.9% majority stake in Kwality Wall's (India) Ltd (KWIL), resulting in a change in promoter classification.

"On March 30, 2026, the Incoming Promoter acquired the Sale Shares from the Outgoing Promoters in accordance with the SPA and other applicable laws," KWIL said in a regulatory filing.

Pursuant to the transaction, the Incoming Promoter has acquired control over the company and is classified as a "promoter" in accordance with Listing Regulations, it added.

Meanwhile, the outgoing promoters have been reclassified from the "promoter" category to the public category.

The "incoming promoter (Magnum) agreed to acquire an aggregate of 145.44 crore equity shares of KWIL" representing 61.9% of the equity share capital of the company from the Outgoing Promoters Unilever.

OIL PRICE SPIKE

'Prolonged drop in gold prices can erode collateral buffers'

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Gold prices are down nearly 16% — from Rs 1,73,080 per 10 gram on March 1, to Rs 1,48,690 on March 31 for 24k — due to a surge in oil prices and a strengthened US dollar amid geopolitical tensions.

But this prolonged drop can erode collateral buffers, trigger collateral top-up requests, and raise operational complexity and regulatory compliance risks, according to Fitch Ratings.

An extended correction in domestic gold prices will test the effectiveness of Indian gold-backed lenders' risk controls, particularly for loans originated when gold prices were near recent highs, Fitch Ratings said.

Gold loans in India are subject to a regulatory LTV (loan-to-value) limit of 75% on the loan principal at origination.

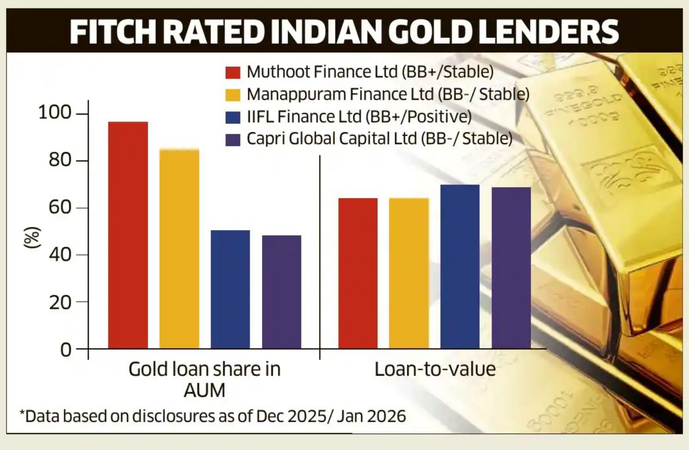
"This implies sufficient buffers to absorb a 25% gold-price decline before principal loss, or a 5%-10% decline if including interest payments of 15%-20% accrued over one year. In practice, lower applied LTVs provide a larger collateral buffer, and effective loan tenors of typically between four and six months reduce the actual interest burden," it said.

Average LTVs at origination are typically 3%-5% below the regulatory limit, but this has widened to 5%-10% below the cap as gold prices climbed around 5%.

Analysts have said the current strong dollar and higher yields are exerting downward pressure on prices.

Rising gold prices boosted collateral buffers on outstanding gold-loan portfolios, especially on facilities extended in earlier months, and conservative collateral valuation on only the gold content of pledged jewellery, excluding gems and workmanship charges, implies a higher replacement cost and a potentially larger valuation buffer relative to reported LTVs, Fitch Ratings added.

FITCH RATED INDIAN GOLD LENDERS



*Data based on disclosures as of Dec 2025/ Jan 2026

Lenders have also introduced borrower top-up requirements to preserve adequate LTV ratios in the event of falling gold prices.

It said that a sustained decline could translate into higher delinquencies and more frequent auctions, if falling collateral values coincide with weakened borrower cash flow, as remedial actions depend on borrowers' ability and willingness to provide an additional margin to maintain compliance with regulatory LTV limits. "Recoveries could also become more sensitive to auction timing and local market depth if market participants expect gold prices to fall further," it added.

Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst — Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities, said gold is likely to stay volatile with limited upside unless clarity emerges on inflation and geopolitics.

"Sentiment remains cautious as macro triggers still favour higher interest rates. Support is seen near Rs 1,42,000, while resistance is placed around Rs 1,46,500," Trivedi added.

Meanwhile, Axis Mutual Fund in its note mentioned that the gold outlook will depend on how the global macroenvironment evolves.

"If inflation remains elevated due to persistent high oil prices, central bankers may keep liquidity tight — bolstering the dollar and yields, which would cap gold's upside. On the other hand, if oil prices settle down indicating lower inflation risk, it could rekindle expectations of rate cuts, easier liquidity and a weaker dollar: conditions under which gold typically thrives," it said.

What started as a fun activity, turns into a passion for fencing

Deeksha, all of 14 & a national gold winner, says she has learnt a lot of life lessons through sports

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

With the body suited-up in white and the head covered in a mesh mask, it becomes hard for a spectator to gauge a fencer's mind. "But from inside the mask, we can see everything happening around us clearly," offers Deeksha L Gowda.

Keeping a close watch of the aggressive ballet-styled movements and the raucous screams after every point won helps the viewer understand the momentum of a bout. "Yeah, my footwork is my biggest strength. But I don't yell after winning a point," says the 14-year-old Bengaluru girl.

A deceptive move? A ploy, maybe? Or does that stem from Deeksha being shy? "No, not at all," Deeksha swiftly retracts, as fast as her defence on a piste (the rectangular surface where fencing bouts take place).

"I don't want to waste my energy by screaming. Nor do I get affected when the opponent screams to celebrate winning a point. I'm just focused on myself giving my best," explains the teen.

By consciously avoiding unwanted noise and channelling her aggression in the right way, Deeksha -- who takes part in the sabre discipline -- is turning out to be a promising prospect in the sport especially after clinching the gold (under-14) at the 26th Sub-junior National Fencing Championship in Cuttack last year.

On the recommendation of a relative, the grade nine Vidyaniketan Public School student began fencing six years ago under coach Irom Devan Singh at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium. Since picking up her first medal at the all-India level when she finished on top of the podium at the 5th Child & 11th Mini National Fencing Championship in Nashik, Maharashtra in 2022 and later becoming the state under-17 champion in September 2025, there has been no looking back.

"I was always interested in sports. The first time I got introduced to fencing, I fell in love with it. Initially, I used to have a lot more fun. Later, after I started winning, pressure started to build up. But I enjoy practicing and competing so much. it doesn't bother me," says Deeksha.

What began as a fun activity is now turning out to be a passion in a sport not considered mainstream in India. And parents -- father Lokesh (a businessman) and mother Shashikala (a homemaker) -- are fully invested in supporting their daughter's dreams.

"She is the first sportsperson in our entire family," says Lokesh.

"Because of Deeksha, not only did my second daughter begin fencing, but also their cousins too. All of them train together. It makes us proud," he adds.

The daily grind with a weapon in hand is not only shaping her to be a better fencer but also teaching her valuable life lessons, feels Deeksha who hopes to study psychology in the future.

"I have understood that I get nervous before and not during a bout. I have learnt that by closely watching the body language of a fencer you get to understand their mind. Sport has taught me how to socialise, strive and also stay in the present. And I want to see how far it will take me," signs off the youngster.

For feedback, email to dhsports @deccanherald.co.in

FACT FILE

Deeksha L Gowda Age: 14
ACHIEVEMENTS
- **Gold:** Mini Nationals (U-12)
- **Gold:** Sub-junior Nationals (U-14)
- **Gold:** State U-17 champion
- **Bronze:** Khelo India Youth Games

FOOTBALL ASIAN QUALIFIERS

Williams scores on India debut

Aus-born forward shines in 2-1 victory; Akash nets decider

KOCHI, PTI

Australian-born Ryan Williams made a dream India debut as his fourth minute strike set up the home side's 2-1 win over Hong Kong in an inconsequential Asian Cup qualifying round match here on Tuesday.

Akash Mishra scored the other goal for India in the 50th minute, also his first international strike, to help the Khalid Jamil-coached side notch their first victory of the third round of the qualifiers.

Already out of contention for the continental showpiece, India ended their campaign with five points -- from one win and two draws -- and at the bottom of Group C.

Everton Camargo pulled one back for Hong Kong in the 65th minute.

India had lost to Hong Kong 0-1 in the first leg on June 10 last year in Kowloon. Singapore, who beat Bangladesh 1-0 at home earlier in the day, qualified for the 2027 Asian Cup as Group C toppers with 14 points from six matches.

Williams slotted home with a first time right footer into the back of the net after a brilliant low delivery into the middle by Manvir Singh to give the big Kochi crowd a wonderful moment to cheer.

Williams was included in the squad after FIFA cleared his change of association, paving the way for the 31-year-old winger to represent India at the senior international level. He had earlier been part of India's preparatory camp for the Bangladesh match but missed out on the lineup due to pending documentation.

It was also his international debut as he has not played for Australia in an official senior match. He represented Australia at the youth level, featuring in the 2012 AFC U-19 Championship and the 2013 FIFA U-20 World Cup.

A versatile attacker currently playing for Indian Super League side Bengaluru FC, Williams relinquished his Australian passport last year to play for India.

Ryan Williams (centre) celebrates with Indian team-mates after scoring on his international debut against Hong Kong during AFC Asian Qualifiers in Kochi on Tuesday. AIFF

India U-23 win

India U23 men's national team pumped five past Bhutan in the U23 Tri-Nation Championship at the Golden Jubilee Stadium in Yupia, Arunachal on Saturday.

Suhail Ahmad Bhat (51st, 81st) scored a brace, while Ricky Meetei Haobam (44th), Tomba Singh Haobam (79th), and Muhammed Ajsal (85th) netted one each.

This victory takes India to the top of the table in the U23 Tri-Nation Championship.

Undav rescues Germany late

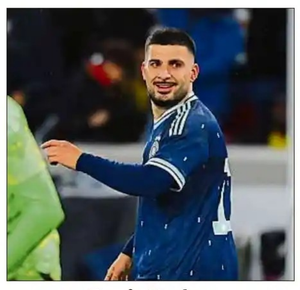
STUTTGART, AFP

A last-gasp Deniz Undav goal saved Germany's blushes in an unconvincing 2-1 win over Ghana in a friendly in Stuttgart on Monday.

Germany dominated possession and field position against the visitors but needed a Kai Havertz penalty to break through just before half-time.

France showcased their attacking firepower and strength in depth with a 3-1 friendly win over Colombia, in their final outing before coach Didier Deschamps names his World Cup squad.

Watford striker Nestory Irankunda bagged a brace as Australia hammered fellow World Cup qualifier Curacao 5-1 Tuesday in Melbourne, ensuring they head to North America on a high. It was the Socceroos final home game before the global showpiece in June-July, building on a 1-0 win against Cameroon last week.



Deniz Undav

Back in Stuttgart, a counter-attacking Abdul Fatawu goal drew the visitors level and the lifeless match looked on track for a draw until Stuttgart striker Undav's 88th-minute effort put Germany back in front.

The home fans chanted Undav's name until the striker was brought on at half-time. The former Brighton forward told ARD: "It was crazy to hear how the fans stood behind me."

Despite a seventh win in a row, it was an inconsistent performance from Julian Nagelsmann's men against an out-of-form Ghana side.

Thomas Partey lined up in midfield for Ghana, making his second international start since telling a London court he would plead not guilty to two new charges of rape, with a trial set to take place in November.

Results: Germany: 2 (Havertz 45+3rd P, Undav 88th) bt Ghana: 1 (Issahaku 70th); Colombia: 1 (Campaz - 77th) lt to France: 3 (Doue 29th, 56th, Thuram 41st); Australia: 5 (Mabil - 23rd, Circati 67th, Bos 71st, Irankunda 80th, 84th) bt Curacao: 1 (50th).

Iran will play FIFA World Cup in the USA, insists Infantino

ANTALYA (TURKEY), AFP: FIFA president Gianni Infantino (**in pic**) said on Tuesday that Iran "will be at the World Cup" and will play their group matches in the United States as scheduled, despite the West Asia war.

"Iran will be at the World Cup," Infantino said at half-time of Iran's friendly against Costa Rica in Turkey. That's why we're here. We're delighted because they're a very, very strong team, I'm very happy.

"I've seen the team, I've spoken to the players and the coach, so everything is fine," added Infantino, whose attendance at Tuesday's game was unannounced.

Infantino went on to stress that Iran's "matches will be played where they are supposed to be, according to the draw".

The World Cup, being hosted by the United States, Mexico and Canada, starts on June 11.

Iran are set to play their first Group G game against New Zealand in Los Angeles on June 15. They are then scheduled to play Belgium in Los Angeles on June 21 and Egypt in Seattle on June 27.

Iran's participation had been thrown into doubt by the war with the US and Israel that broke out on February 28.

Bhowneesh, Kynan in contention for trap finals

TANGIER (MOROCCO), PTI: Indian trap shooters Bhowneesh Mendiratta and Kynan Chenai enjoyed an eventful opening day, shooting with precision and consistency to put themselves in contention for a place in the finals at the inaugural ISSF Shotgun World Cup here on Tuesday.

In a highly competitive field led by Nathan Hales of Great Britain -- the Paris Olympics gold medallist and former world champion -- both Bhowneesh and Kynan hit 72 targets to be in joint sixth place alongside seven others after three rounds of 25 shots each, totalling 75 clay targets. The third Indian in the fray, Olympian Prithviraj Tondaiman, endured a disappointing outing, managing 65/75 to be placed joint 62nd in the field. Bhowneesh showed steady improvement across rounds.

NRI Triple Power wins feature

HYDERABAD RESULTS

D Netto-trained NRI Triple Power, ridden by Mukesh Kumar, won the Ardent Knight Plate, the feature event of the races on Tuesday.

1. Zurbaran Plate - 1200M: Fox Worth (Rajesh Sanghani) Mukesh Kumar 1; Analysis (G Naresh) 2; Mahwish (Ajay Kumar) 3; Atreya (B Nikhil) 4; WB: 2-3/4, 1-1/4, Nose; T: 1:12.88; TB: D Netto; Fav: Zindabad.

2. Chaitanya Chakram Plate - 1400M: NRI Range (Ravinder Reddy) Akshay Kumar; Dream To Fly (G Naresh) 2; First Lady (BR Kumar) 3; Sadiya (P Ajeeth Kumar) 4; WB: 5-1/2, 2, 1/2, 1 1/4L; T: 1:26.50; TB: Srinivas Reddy. Fav: first lady.

3. Bhakranangal Plate - 1600M: Special Star (Asho Ranpise) Mukesh Kumar 1; Real Thalaivaa (Mohit Singh) 2; Lake Michigan (Akshay Kumar) 3; Quintessential (Kuldeep Singh Jr) 4; 566.TB: Prasad Raju. Fav: Special Star.

4. Ardent Knight Plate - 1600M: NRI Triple Power (Cyrus F Palia) Mukesh Kumar 1; Authoritarian (Ajay Kumar) 2; Knight Regent (Akshay Kumar) 3; Krystallos (Surya Prakash) 4; WB: 4-3/4, Sh, Nk; T: 1:39.18; TB: D Netto; Fav: Knight Regent.

5. Prince Of Berar Plate - 1100M: Divine Tiger (Paramvir Sing) Akshay Kumar 1; Queen Eternal (Neeraj Rawal) 2; Aarav Pet (B Nikhil) 3; My Day (Rafique Sk) 4; Wb: 2-1/2, 2-1/4, 1-1/2l; T: 1:05.76; TB: Deshmukh; Fav: Grit N Grace.

6. Cabaret Plate - 1200M: Deccan Spirit (Shailendra Singh) Mukesh Kumar 1; Kinight Crusader (Akshay Kumar) 2; Gloria (P Ajeeth Kumar) 3; Rival (Ajay Kumar) 4; WB: 1/2; 3-3/4; 3/4L; T: 1:11.36; TB: Magan Singh; Fav: Knight Crusader.

7. Sweet Girl Plate - 1400M: Silver Arrow (P Sai Kumar) 1; Bold Indian (Akshay Kumar) 2; Muaser (P Ajeet Kumar) 3; Star Cruise (Kuldeep) 4; NR: Lucky Fiero; WB: Nk, 2, 7-1/4L; T: 1:28.57; TB: A Imran Khan; Fav: Bold Indian.

Bengaluru dividends

I race: Rs 32w; 14, 15, 35p; Fc: Rs 128; Q: Rs 76; Shp: Rs 32; Thp: Rs 77; Tri: Rs 775 & 313; Exp: Rs 19,310 & 16,551.
II race: Rs 20w; 13, 15, 12 p; Fc: Rs 67; Q: Rs 50; Shp: Rs 35; Thp: Rs 45; Tri: Rs 120 & 34; Exp: Rs 472 & 307.
III race: Rs 15w; 13, 13, 10 p; Fc: Rs 110; Q: Rs 78; Shp: Rs 49; Thp: Rs 31; Tri: Rs 209 & 46; Exp: Rs 818 & 566.
IV race: Rs 41w; 10, 30, 12 p; Fc: Rs 285; Q: Rs 160; Shp: Rs 44; Thp: Rs 72; Tri: Rs 695 & 100; Exp: Rs 6607 & 2427.
V race: Rs 16w; 10, 15, 46p; Fc: Rs 53; Q: Rs 54; Shp: Rs 38; Thp: Rs 96; Tri: Rs 661 & 508; Exp: Rs 3039 & 1028.
VI race: Rs 75w; 18, 10, 36p; Fc: Rs 155; Q: Rs 38; Shp: Rs 44; Thp: Rs 77; Tri: Rs 785 & 715; Exp: Rs 4307 & 1136.
VII race: Rs 24w; 10, 12, 10p; Fc: Rs: 40; Q: Rs 17; Shp: Rs 24; Thp: Rs 30; Tri: Rs 122 & 84; Exp: Rs 317 & 234.
Jackpot: Rs 3969 & 339. **I treble:** Rs 337. **II treble:** Rs 399.

KOLKATA RACES

Due to inclement weather rendering the track unconducive for racing, the Stewards of the Royal Calcutta Turf Club have postponed the ninth day on Wednesday of the Kolkata races to a date to be announced later.

Praggnanandhaa slips up against Sindarov in Game 3

Indian suffers a setback following defeat to Uzbek

PAPHOS (CYPRUS), PTI

Javokhir Sindarov. X

Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa suffered a major setback in his campaign, going down to Javokhir Sindarov of Uzbekistan in the third round of the FIDE Candidates Tournament here on Tuesday.

The defeat with the white pieces could prove costly for Praggnanandhaa, who had begun his campaign on a high by defeating Dutch Grandmaster Anish Giri, leaving the Indian on 1.5 points after the setback and in urgent need of a quick recovery.

Apart from Sindarov, American Grandmaster Fabiano Caruana -- the pre-tournament favourite -- defeated Wei Yi of China in one of the strangest games of the opening three rounds, with Caruana and Sindarov sharing the lead on 2.5 points apiece.

They are followed by Praggnanandhaa on 1.5, while Matthias Bluebaum, Andrey Esipenko, Hikaru Nakamura and Giri are tied for fourth on one point each. Wei Yi sits at the bottom on half a point in the eight-player double round-robin event with 11 rounds still to be played.

For Praggnanandhaa, it was a heartbreak after a rousing start, as with the white pieces he faced a Queen's Gambit Declined and, on another day, it could well have been a straightforward draw had he not pushed to play decisively.

Sindarov, the youngest-ever World Cup winner, has emerged as a fierce competitor against the world elite over the past year, and on Tuesday was no different as the Uzbek seized his chances in the middle game, sacrificing a piece to dismantle white's initiative early on.

In the women's event being held simultaneously, the ice was finally broken by Bibisara Assaubayeva of Kazakhstan who scored the first victory of the event at the expense of Zhu Jiner of China.

India's R Vaishali kept herself in the hunt drawing with Anna Muzychuk in an uneventful game but women's World Cup winner Divya Deshmukh was on the brink of a defeat against Aleksandra Goryachkina of Russia.

Results (Round 3): Open: Fabiano Caruana (USA, 2.5) bt Wei Yi (Chn, 0.5); R Praggnanandhaa (1.5) lt to Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb, 2.5); Hikaru Nakamura (USA, 1) drew with Anish Giri (Ned, 1); Matthias Bluebaum (Ger, 1) drew with Andrey Esipenko (Rus, 1).
Women (Round 3): Tan Zhongyi (Chn, 1) lt to Kateryna Lagno (Rus, 2); Bibisara Assaubayeva (Kaz, 2) bt Zhu Jiner (Chn, 1); R Vaishali (Ind, 1.5) drew with Anna Muzychuk (Ukr, 1.5); Aleksandra Goryachkina (Rus, 1) playing Divya Deshmukh (Ind, 1).

Ramu bags 400m bronze at Tribal Games

BENGALURU, DHNS: 400m runner Ramu bagged Karnataka's sole medal on Thursday in the men's final of the event in the inaugural edition of the Khelo India Tribal Games in Raipur, Chhattisgarh on Tuesday.

Ramu, who clocked 49.60 seconds, was well in contention for the gold medal as Santoshbhai Ganvit of Gujarat (49.332) took the top spot ahead of Odisha's Nobal Kumar Kissan (49.335) in a photo finish.

Karnataka continue to lead the medals tally with 19 gold, seven silver and seven bronze while Odisha are second with 13 gold, eight silver and 15 bronze medals.

Manasi Kunkalka opened Goa's gold medal account by winning the women's shot put gold with a distance of 9.72m. Bihar's Anamika Gond (9.50m) and Meghalaya's Melibadkro (9.43m) took home silver and bronze medals, respectively.

Jharkhand sprinters Shiv Kumar Soren and Prithvi Oraon emerged as the fastest men and women athletes respectively.

Pankaj Advani poses with National 9-ball pool title.

Advani wins 9-ball pool title on debut

BENGALURU, DHNS

Pankaj Advani, India's most decorated cueist, added another feather to his cap by winning his maiden National 9-ball pool title at the Rotary Bhawan in Ludhiana on Tuesday.

In the final, the PSPB cueist outplayed Nitin Sharma of Chandigarh 11-6 in the race-to-11 affair in front of an appreciative crowd. Advani, who stayed away from the fast-paced discipline for over 25 years, made it a memorable debut.

"I can't believe it, this is a very different title," said Advani. "It means so much to me, winning a sport which is outside of my comfort zone!

"To be an underdog and eventually go on to lift the trophy is something I never imagined in my wildest dreams would happen."

Owner of 28 world titles in billiards and snooker, Advani proved that he possesses a high degree of skill and tactical acumen to excel in this high-speed version of cue sports.

Results (9-ball pool): Men: Final: Pankaj Advani (PSPB) bt Nitin Sharma (Chd) 11-6.
Third-place playoff: S Shrikrishna (PSPB) bt Kushal Chandrashekar (Kar) 7-2.
Junior boys: Semis: Aarav Sancheti (Mah) bt Mayur Garg (Guj) 6-1; Laksh Sharma (Kar) bt Rehaan Misra (Del) 6-1.
Junior girls: Semis: Natasha Chethan (Kar) bt Jiya Sehgal (Pun) 6-4; L Shruthi (TN) bt Sanvi Shah (MP) 6-4.

Naseem fined record Rs 60 lakh for criticising Pak Punjab CM

KARACHI, AFP: Fast bowler Naseem Shah has been slapped with the biggest fine in Pakistan cricket history after criticising a politician on social media.

Shah's whopping $71,500 (Rs 60 lakh approximately) punishment is the latest incident to rock the Pakistan Super League during a turbulent opening week.

Fellow fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi has also been fined $3,500 (Rs 3.30 lakh approx) for breaking the tight security protocols.

Meanwhile, Naseem aimed a barb at Punjab chief minister Maryam Nawaz, who was the guest of honour at a slimmed-down PSL opening ceremony before last Thursday's match between Lahore Qalandars and Hyderabad Kingsmen.

In a post on X, which was swiftly deleted, Naseem mocked Nawaz's arrival, saying: "Why is she treated like the Queen at Lord's?"

Fakhar banned

Pakistan opener Fakhar Zaman was on Tuesday suspended for two matches of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) for breaching the code of conduct pertaining to changing the condition of the ball. The incident occurred just before the start of the final over when the on-field umpires penalised Lahore Qalandars for five runs and the ball was changed.

Harshan stars for Beagles

LOCAL BASKETBALL

BENGALURU, DHNS: Harshan scored match-high 25 points as Beagles BC defeated Chikkamagaluru District 79-54 to advance to the final league cum knockout stage of the boys' section in the State Junior basketball championship for the D N Rajanna Trophy at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium on Tuesday.

Results: Super League: Boys: Beagles BC: 79 (Harshan 25, Srijan 14) bt Chikkamagaluru District: 54 (Om Shethy 13, Sujoy 12); DYES Bangalore: 58 (Vaibhav 17) bt Lakshyan BC: 32 (Abinav 10); PPC: 93 (Ryan 28, Aditya 19) bt Hoop-7 BC: 43 (Raghav 16); HBR BC: 56 (Samveg 20, Rishith 11) bt JSC: 43 (Arshad 12); Viveks SC: 72 (Anshul 32 Bhavy 11) bt Mysore District A: 50 (Shlok 14); MNK Rao Park BC: 75 (Yashas 26, Aakash 16) bt Yelahanka BC: 27 (Sanket 10).
Girls: Bangalore Vanguards: 68 (Aditi S 25, Mahek Sharma 18) bt PPC: 24 (Shinani 06); DYES Vidyanagar: 53 (Deepika 24, Ishitha 10) bt Mounts Club: 50 (Nidhi Umesh 34, Nilaaya 16); Beagles: 55 (Swathi 18) bt Mysore District A: 41 (Shravani 17); Mandya District: 73 (Manasa 19) bt Rajmahal BC: 51 (Shreya 21); Viveks SC: 61 (Devipriya 24 Manasvi 14) bt Bharath SU: 49 (Archana 13, Miriam 12).

India U-20 face Bhutan

MALE, PTI: Defending champions India will look to rise to the occasion when they take on Bhutan in the semifinals of the SAFF U-20 Championship at the National Stadium here on Wednesday.

The other semifinal is between Nepal and Bangladesh. The India U-20 men's team heads into the semifinals after making full use of the three-day break following their group-stage matches. They used the time to recover physically and reset mentally.

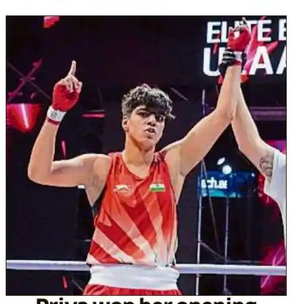
Priya progresses on Day 2

ULAANBAATAR (MONGOLIA), PTI

India's Priya recorded a dominant 5-0 victory but Jadumani Singh went down fighting on the second day of the Asian Boxing Championships, here on Tuesday.

In the women's 60kg category, Priya recorded a unanimous 5-0 triumph over Kazakhstan's Rimma Volossenko, showcasing control and composure throughout the bout to progress to the next stage.

Priya will take on the second-seeded Chengyu Yang from China. Jadumani fought hard but could not avert a 2-3 defeat in a split decision against Japan's Rimma Yamaguchi, who is the No.1 seed in the category.



Priya won her opening round bout by unanimous verdict. ASIAN BOXING

Lin wins

Lin Yu-ting comfortably won her first international bout since the 2024 Paris Olympics at the Asian championships on Tuesday after World Boxing said she passed a gene test.

Taiwan's first Olympic boxing champion beat Thananya Somnuek of Thailand 5-0 in the round of 1. The 30-year-old Lin wasn't cleared to compete at the Asian titles until less than two weeks ago.

Naseem Shah

"Plan was to go big in the Powerplay. The coaches have told me that they back me and they're behind me. Prep went well, we were here early, they told me to read the situation and back my game.

VAIBHAV SOORYAVANSHI

IN BRIEF

Dhyanchand HC post 8-1 win

▸ Dhyanchand Hockey Club from Bengaluru defeated Major Dhyanchand HC, Dharwad 8-1 with Shreyas, Vivek, and Jason firing a brace each in the goalfest at the KSHA 'B' Division Hockey League Championship on Tuesday, reports DHNS.

Results: Dhyanchand HC, Bengaluru: 8 (Shreyas 2nd, 3rd, Vivek 11th, 25th, Jason 14th, 24th, Rama 28th, Mike 43rd) bt Major Dhyanchand HC, Dharwad: 1 (Sunil P 48th).

Adarsh, Poorvi to lead K'taka

▸ Adarsh Govind Mutagar and Poorvi Poovamma KA will lead Karnataka Sub-junior men's and women's teams respectively at the 16th Hockey India Championship from April 1 to 12, reports DHNS.

The men's competition will be held in Rajgir while the women's tournament will be in Ranchi.

Men's side: Aketi Jai Durga Prakash, Preetham Gowda HS, Jeevankumar Durgappa Pujar Krupank D, Naaganaboyina Manikanta, Adarsh Govind Mutagar (C), Aathmik Deep M, Pradyot Ponanna TN, Preetham Shyam Manapati, Sanchay Thammaiah BP, Daiwik, Ponnanna AC, Likith BP, Muthanna PA, Pratham Poovaiah MB, Preetham HH, Samridh Chendanda, Prateek Rajesh Yarkal, Naaganaboyina, Vinayakasree Harshwardhan
Support staff: PL Thimmanna, Ramachandra P
Women's side: Pooja Dharwad, Verna Bojamma KP, Gana MT, Kusumanjali SM, Sukanya Mugappa Jakkannavar, Yashika KK, Madhurya GS, Basamma Shivappa Huggennavar
Smitha HG, Poorvi Poovamma KA (c), Tejal Bopanna, Preeti Neelaraddi, Thaniya MM
Lakshya Ponnakka KM, Saraswathi HY, Shilpa Madiwalappa Kanajanavar, Sinchana KP, Vidya Ponnamma MU
Support staff: Felix Alwin, Seema AP

Narrow win for KR Puram

▸ Krishnarajapuram defeated a fighting Byatrayanapura via a late own goal to record their second win of the tournament in the second match of the day in Group D of the Chief Minister's Cup football tournament at the KSFA Stadium here on Tuesday.

Results: Group C: Jayanagar: 2 (Dhawan MVD 33rd, Sreekala N 90+4th) drew with Yelahanka: 2 (Prajwal 5th, Manoj Kumar 72nd).
Group D: KR Puram: 1 (Sandeep Kumar Saikia 82nd OG) bt Byatrayanapura: 0

IPL broadcast engineer dies

▸ IPL broadcast engineer Jan William Langford died after being found unconscious in Mumbai hotel on Monday, reports PTI from New Delhi.

SUMMER CAMPS

KIOC summer camp from Apr 1

▸ Karnataka Institute of Cricket (KIOC) will conduct its summer coaching camp for boys and girls (5 years and above) at the RBANMS Main Ground, near Ulsoor Lake, Shivajinagar, from April 1. For details, contact 7022600150 or 9008675618.

Chess camp from April 7

▸ Yadav School of Chess will be conducting a summer camp from April 7-14 at Srinivasa Krupa in Ravindranagar, Shivamogga, reports DHNS.

For more details, contact 9242401702 or 9743819678.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

IPL: LSG vs Dc **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports 1**, **JioHostar**.

FOOTBALL

IFL: Rajasthan United vs Chanmari FC **(4 pm)**, Sreenidi Deccan FC vs Shillong Lajong **(6:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 5**, **SonyLIV**.

Friendlies: Brazil vs Croatia **(5:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode**.

Connolly stars in tricky chase

Australian smashes 72 not out to steer Punjab Kings past Gujarat Titans

MULLANPUR, PTI

Young southpaw Cooper Connolly marked his IPL debut with a decisive 44-ball 72 after Yuzvendra Chahal's artistry with the ball to power Punjab Kings to a three-wicket victory over Gujarat Titans here on Tuesday.

After PBKS opted to field first, leg-spinner Chahal (2/28 in 4 overs) brought his years of experience to the fore to stymie GT in the middle overs and limit them to 162/6. Seamer Vijaykumar Vyshak grabbed 3/34 for PBKS.

After almost losing their way with the bat due to Prasidh Krishna's (3/29 in 4 overs) excellent bowling, PBKS completed the chase of 163 with five balls to spare. Connolly and Prabhsimran Singh (37 off 24 balls) laid the foundation for the win with a 76-run partnership for the second wicket.

Earlier, skipper Shubman Gill (39 off 27 balls) and Jos Buttler (38 off 33 balls) were the chief contributors for GT in an insipid batting display.

PBKS' start was not good as Kagiso Rabada cramped Priyansh Arya for room with his pace and line to dismiss the opener after debutant fast bowler Ashok Sharma went back a few steps to pull off a good catch at midwicket.

Connolly and Prabhsimran then meant business as they went about their task in a professional manner to keep their team ahead, the two hitting a flurry of fours and sixes to flatten the GT bowlers.

Rashid Khan gave GT hope with the wicket of Prabhsimran, the batter failing to clear Prasidh Krishna at long-on.

Shreyas Iyer pulled Ashok Kumar's short balls over deep square-leg for two sixes but, shortly after taking a solid hit off his partner Connolly's shot, the PBKS captain flicked a Prasidh Krishna half-volley to Washington Sundar at deep mid-wicket.

Sundar removed Nehal Wadhera, and Krishna dismissed Shashank Singh and Marcus Stoinis in quick succession to bring GT back into contention.

But Connolly was there to see PBKS home, hitting five sixes and as many fours during his knock.

Earlier, sent into bat, Gill dealt in boundaries as the side raced to 35 in three overs.

Gill looked in sublime touch as he picked the gaps at will to score at a good clip, forcing PBKS skipper Shreyas Iyer to effect a bowling change and introduce the tall Marco Jansen (1/20 in 4 overs) into the attack.

The move paid dividends straightaway as left-arm pacer Jansen got Sai Sudharsan (13) to slice one straight towards mid-off where Shreyas completed a simple catch.

Sudharsan appeared to be attempting to loft the ball over mid-on, giving the PBKS a much-needed breakthrough in the fourth over.

That brought Jos Butter to the crease and the Englishman, coming off a disappointing T20 World Cup campaign, got off the mark in style, caressing Vyshak Vijaykumar through cover for a boundary, the shot giving the batter a lot of confidence moving forward. Buttler employed the cut shot against a short and wide Jansen delivery to get a four.

While pacer Vyshak Vijaykumar (left) first shone for Punjab Kings by bagging 3/34, team-mate Cooper Connolly then hogged the limelight with an unbeaten 72 in the game against Gujarat Titans on Tuesday. PTI

SCOREBOARD

GUJARAT TITANS: Sai Sudharsan c Shreyas b Jansen 13, Shubman Gill c Connolly b Chahal 39, Jos Buttler c Bartlett b Chahal 38, Glenn Phillips c Jansen b Vyshak 25, Washington Sundar c Arshdeep b Vyshak 18, M Shahrukh Khan c Arshdeep b Vyshak 4, Rahul Tewatia (not out) 11, Rashid Khan (not out) 0. Extras (LB-2, NB-1, W-11) 14. **TOTAL (for 6 wkts, 20 overs) 162**
Fall of wickets: 1-37, 2-83, 3-119, 4-129, 5-144, 6-150.
Bowling: Arshdeep Singh 4-0-42-0, Xavier Bartlett 4-0-36-0, Marco Jansen 4-0-20-1, Vyshak Vijaykumar 4-0-34-3, Yuzvendra Chahal 4-0-28-2.
PUNJAB KINGS: Priyansh Arya c Ashok b Rabada 7, Prabhsimran Singh c Prasidh b Rashid 37, Cooper Connolly (not out) 72, Shreyas Iyer c Sundar b Prasidh 18, Nehal Wadhera c Gill b Sundar 3, Shashank Singh c Buttler b Prasidh 4, Stoinis c Rashid b Prasidh 0, Marco Jansen c Gill b Ashok 9, Xavier Bartlett (not out) 11. Extras (W-4) 4. **TOTAL (for 7 wkts, 19.1 overs) 165.**
Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-83, 3-110, 4-113, 5-118, 6-118, 7-144.
Bowling: Mohammed Siraj 2-0-15-0, Kagiso Rabada 3-0-34-1, Ashok Sharma 3-0-31-1, Rashid Khan 4-0-29-1, Washington Sundar 3.1-0-27-1, Prasidh Krishna 4-0-29-3.
Result: PBKS won by 3 wkts
PoM: Cooper Connolly

Pant eyes strong start to season

Super Giants take on Axar's DC in their campaign opener

LIVE 7:30 PM

LUCKNOW, PTI

Lucknow Super Giants captain Rishabh Pant will have little room for error in a critical year as his side begins its IPL 2026 campaign against a well-rounded Delhi Capitals here on Wednesday.

Pant could not deliver as a leader and frontline batter in his first year at LSG. Injuries to key players, especially fast bowlers, made his job a lot tougher.

This season, he has a fully fit squad at his disposal that has been bolstered by the addition of old warhorse Mohammed Shami and Anrich Nortje.

Injury prone pace sensation Mayank Yadav has worked hard on his fitness over the past 12 months and LSG would be hoping that he repays the strong faith that franchise had reposed in him.

Pacer Mohsin Khan too is making a comeback from injury while Prince Yadav has also impressed with his medium pace in the nets thus far.

Mystery spinner Digvesh Singh Rathi made a name for himself in his debut season and would be looking to build on the massive gains that he made 12 months ago.

Compared to the bowling department, the batting has a more settled look with Mitchell Marsh and Aiden Markram forming one of the most lethal opening pairings in the IPL.

Pant, who could not make an impact at number four for majority of last season before slamming a hundred at number three, is set to bat in the top-order with Nicholas Pooran to follow at number four.

LSG take on a side that should have made the playoffs last year after a promising beginning. Delhi Capitals tried as many as seven opening combinations last year and this season they are confident of more stability in the top-order.

KL Rahul is certain to open the innings but there is not enough clarity on his partner. The options are Prithvi Shaw, Abhishek Porel and Pathum Nissanka.

Skipper Rishabh Pant will hope to lead from the front when Lucknow Super Giants kick off their IPL campaign against Delhi Capitals.

Royal Challengers calmer than last year, says Krunal

BENGALURU, DHNS: The mood in the Royal Challengers Bengaluru dressing room is noticeably more settled this season, with players far clearer about their responsibilities, according to Krunal Pandya.

After ending an 18-year wait by lifting their maiden Indian Premier League title in 2025, RCB saw Pandya play a decisive role in the final against Punjab Kings in Ahmedabad. His match-winning spell of 2 for 17 in four overs earned him the Player-of-the-Match award in a narrow six-run victory.

"I feel that this year there is a much calmer atmosphere. Last year it was a new team, and everyone got to know each other.

"This year many players understand their roles and each other's strengths and weaknesses," Pandya said in a release by the franchise.

"When I get into the big occasions, I feel that if God has got you here, then there is a reason behind it and sometimes I think that these big occasions are actually made for me. I feel the pressure, but I think about how I can be calm and in the present moment and do what is required," he said.

Pandya said RCB icon Virat Kohli would easily rank among the greatest players in any era of cricket.

"Virat is a classic example. You can see that hunger; you can see that passion in how he sees the game and how much he wants that victory. If Virat Kohli had been born in any (some other) generation, he would still be one of the greats. He is not competing with anyone else," he said.

Krunal Pandya

Calls for stricter penalties for pullouts grow

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

Imagine this: You spend countless hours discussing strategies and zero in on players -- backed by extensive data analysis and meticulous scouting -- who could fit into that plan. Come the IPL auction, you fight for their services against your competitors, and often times pay exorbitant prices to sign them. Just ahead of the competition, however, a player pulls out, citing reasons other than injury, unsettling the side.

"It does hamper the franchise's preparation quite a lot. Because a lot of planning goes behind the scenes before picking a player," a former Punjab Kings' coach told *DH* on conditions of anonymity.

The last-minute player pullouts are not just frustrating for a team, but also stressful (to find a replacement from a limited pool), time-consuming and affects the tactics ahead of a two-month long IPL season.

"If any player pulls out, whether it is an Indian or a foreigner, it will have an impact. Finding replacements, finding the right ones with respect to a team's home conditions, combinations again falls on the coach. At times, you can't find the right ones, and it creates a huge impact as far as the franchise is concerned," he adds.

While pullouts come with consequences to the franchise and the player, on some occasions a cricketer is restricted to perform a limited role on the instruction from his country's board.

Kolkata Knight Riders sweat over team combination with Cameron Green (left) not fit enough to bowl. DC's Ben Duckett pulled out at the last minute to play County cricket.

For instance, Kolkata Knight Riders picked up Cameron Green for a whopping Rs 25.2 crore (most expensive overseas purchase) keeping in mind a top-order batter who provides three-four overs in each game.

However, in KKR's first game, Green played as a specialist batter and when skipper Ajinkya Rahane, during the post-match presentation, was asked why he was not utilised as a bowler, his reply was: "That question you need to ask Cricket Australia".

"If you pay for an All-Rounder and get a batsman in return... you should be, at the very least, eligible for a refund," former India and KKR cricketer Aakash Chopra wrote on X.

Earlier, Green had also confirmed that he would be available to bowl in the IPL and blamed his manager after he was listed as a batter rather than an all-rounder in the auction, ahead of the player auction in December last.

However, CA later barred Green from bowling for the first two weeks of IPL, a call they claim has been communicated to KKR well before the start of this IPL.

Cooper Connolly, another Australian all-rounder, is playing as a pure batter for PBKS after being asked by CA to not bowl as he recovers from a back injury.

Talking about how teams can tackle players with utility restrictions, the coach said: "When we pick a player, the association or the player himself would have said these are my restrictions and that's how the teams pick who they want. Otherwise, if they feel what a certain player brings to the table isn't enough, they won't pick," he said.

Delhi Capitals' Ben Duckett recently pulled out of the IPL to rediscover lost form, wanting to play red-ball cricket for Nottinghamshire in the County Championship.

He could also be slapped with a two-year ban that has been set by the BCCI, which his team-mate Harry Brook is serving.

"You have to look at something that will have an impact. As long as it is not having an impact on the player and his chances of coming back to the IPL, it (the bans) won't work," Sunil Gavaskar told India Today, calling for stricter pullout punishments.

DC are also awaiting Mitchell Starc's arrival to the IPL as the pacer is still recuperating from an injury.

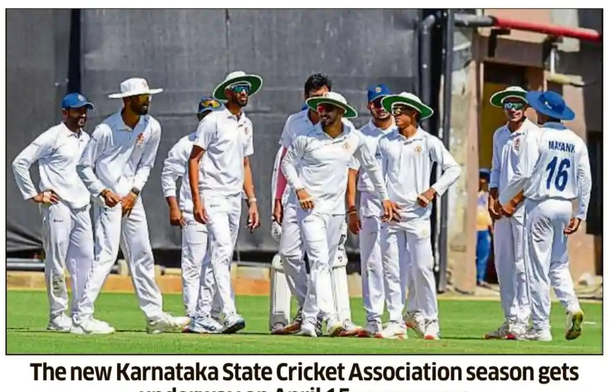
KSCA: Cooling-off period to be implemented strictly for returning players

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

As the Karnataka State Cricket Association kicks off its new season on April 15, it has brought about a few key changes, with two things that stand out: players who obtain NOCs from KSCA to play for other states will have to undergo a mandatory cooling-off period of one season to be eligible to represent the state again, and compulsory coloured clothing for teams playing in white-ball tournaments.

"The one-season cooling-off period for players returning to the Karnataka fold after having obtained an NOC to represent other states has been in the rule book for a long time. It just wasn't followed strictly. But we will be adhering to it strictly from this season onwards," KSCA secretary Santosh Menon told *DH*.

"Another major rule is, we have decided to play limited-overs cricket with coloured clothing and white balls. Right from the start of the tournament, even the IV and V Division, all of them will play matches with white balls and coloured clothing. That's mandatory. We at the KSCA want to take the game forward at all levels," said Menon.



The new Karnataka State Cricket Association season gets underway on April 15. DH FILE PHOTO

Another key change the current dispensation, which took office in December last year, has brought about this season is allowing under-23 players, who would have played three or fewer matches in red-ball tournaments in I, II, and III Division, to represent any team in IV and V Division in red-ball events. Each team in IV and V Division can sign a maximum of two such U-23 players.

"What happens is, there is probably a 19-year-old boy. He gets to play only two league matches in red-ball tournaments. And then, unfortunately is not able to make it to the state team. So, he doesn't have much cricket left in October, November. So, instead of whiling away time, he can always play for a 4th or 5th Division club. This way, the player is engaged throughout," said Menon.

Draw Ceremony

The KSCA also conducted the draw ceremony for the season-opening GI Kasturirangan Memorial T20 tournament in the presence of the clubs' respective presidents and secretaries and was **streamed live** on the association's social media channel on Monday.

"This is something we will be doing for all tournaments to ensure transparency in the finalisation of fixtures and venues. Some people say that, okay, one particular club's matches were put in only IAF or RSI and not in Chinnaswamy (Stadium) and they didn't get BGS. So, we have done the ties already. But nobody knows who is playing. A is playing B in BGS. And C is playing D in Alur," said Menon.

"So, who is A, who is B, who is C, who is D was decided today (Monday). Teams were seeded based on performances in the 2024-25 season.

"It's similar to the Champions League draw in football; we have taken a leaf out of that. This ensures there's fairness and no fingers of favouritism are pointed at the KSCA."

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